

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIII.]

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 10TH JUNE, 1896.

No. 24.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.....	477
Leading Articles:—	
Additional Unofficial Members for the Hongkong Legislative Council.....	478
The Administration during the Governor's Absence	478
Wharfage Accommodation and Ferry Traffic	478
Cocklofts and Cubicles.—A Mistake in the Law.....	479
Shanghai Bunders	479
Railways and Feng-shui	480
The Treaty between Germany and Japan	480
The Acting Governorship	480
Supreme Court	481
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	482
Sanitary Superintendent's Annual Report	483
Chinese Petition on the Sanitary Regulations.....	484
The Charge of Embezzlement against F. Walker	484
The Second Gymkhana Meeting	485
Hongkong Volunteer Corps	485
Hongkong Rifle Association	485
The Stranding of the <i>Cheang Hock Kian</i>	485
The Amoy Customs Report	485
The Navigation of the <i>Peiho</i>	487
The Extension of the Settlement at Tientsin	487
Foreign Education in China.....	487
Agreements in Restraint of Trade.....	487
Jebeu Mining and Trading Co., Limited	488
Special Ports in Japan	488
The Japanese Merchant.....	488
Correspondence	489
A Shanghai Bunder	489
A Steamer Ashore.....	489
Hongkong and Port News.....	489
Commercial	490
Shipping	492

DEATHS.

Died of heart disease, at 6 a.m., on the 24th May, 1896, at his residence, No. 142C, Bluff, Yokohama, in his 66th year, L. LICHTENSTEIN, a native of Lask, Russian Poland.

At Shanghai, on the 30th May, 1896, AUGUST CHRISTIAN FRIS (Great Northern Telegraph Co.), aged 23 years.

At Shanghai, on the 3rd June, 1896, BLAIR E. MAYNE (late Manager of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Company, Limited), aged 41 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The American mail of the 12th May arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 7th June (26 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The King of Siam arrived at Batavia on the 25th May.

The Shanghai Spring Regatta was held on the 29th May and appears to have been very successful in every respect.

The Japanese Treasury authorities have stated that foreign subjects can properly be registered holders of Japanese Government bonds.

A petition has been addressed to the Hongkong Sanitary Board by Chinese merchants with reference to the administration of the sanitary regulations.

A Reuter's telegram states that a despatch has been addressed to the Governor of Hongkong conveying the Secretary of State's decision with reference to the creation of additional unofficial members of Council.

The Shanghai Volunteer Corps has unanimously elected Captain B. A. Clarke Commandant of the Corps.

It has been decided by the promoters of the recent celebration of Jenner's centenary in Tokyo to erect a statue of the great physician.

There were six cases of plague yesterday. Two were from the city, three from Kowloon, and one from Shauiwan. One of the cases from the city was contracted in Kowloon City.

Chinese merchants trading between Foochow and Formosa complain that junks running between the two points are frequently plundered by pirates beyond the White Dog islands. Some thirty or more junks have been so pirated during the past four months or so.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A telegram received from Peking has been kindly communicated to us, the purport of which is that the Russian and French Ministers there are working to obtain from the Government for their nationals the exclusive concession to construct railways in China.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *Vladivostok* states that the region of the Amur, at present administered by a Governor-General, is to be changed to an Imperial lieutenancy, with either Khabarovka or Nikolaievsk as the capital, while the town of Vladivostok will itself form a separate maritime prefecture under an admiral of full rank.

H.E. Liu Kun-yi has obtained Imperial sanction to establish a college at Nanking, to be maintained by the Government, for educating Chinese youths in foreign literature and science. The college, which will be constructed soon, will have accommodation for 120 pupils, to teach whom foreign teachers of English, German, French, and Japanese will be engaged.—*Mercury*.

The project of a Waterworks Company in the native city, Shanghai, to supply pure fresh water to the inhabitants, is now, the *Mercury* says, in a fair way of being an accomplished fact, two native capitalists of the rank of Taotai having raised a capital of Tls. 300,000 for the carrying out of the scheme. The works will be erected at Kaochang-miao, and the water supply drawn from up stream.

A homeward passenger by the French mail, writing to the *Courrier d'Haiphong* from the Red Sea, speaking of amusements on the passage, says:—Parfois même on s'ennuie bien un peu malgré le spectacle divertissant que nous donne continuellement l'ambassadeur chinois lorsqu'il se fait habiller, laver, coiffer, masser, électriser, poudrer, pomponner. Tout cela sur le pont, devant la cabine de luxe qui a été donnée à Li Hung-chang.

It is reported from Hankow that the chief *dépôt* and starting point of the Hankow-Peking grand trunk railway will be at Shasi, a few miles distant from the first-named port. It is also said that H.E. Chang Chih-tung is sanguine of being able to supply the new railway with a goodly portion of the materials required from the Hanyang Iron Works, and that this was the main reason of his appointing the wealthy Shêng Taotai, of Tientsin fame, to the Chief Directorship of that institution.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A dormant commission has been issued appointing the Senior Military Officer to administer the Government of Hongkong during the absence or incapacity of the Governor and in the event of there being no Lieutenant-Governor.

At a meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce held on the 1st June it was decided to again address the Senior Consul on the subject of river conservancy, pointing out that the recent *Onwo* disaster shows the necessity for strict regulations for the navigation of the Woosung Bar, and, referring to previous correspondence on the subject, to ask if the Consular body can take steps to obtain legislative sanction for the existing Customs rules, and for such other additional rules as may be deemed advisable.

Formosa is playing sad havoc in the ranks of Japanese settlers. The *Japan Herald*, writing on the 21st May, says that so many of the carpenters and other artisans that were despatched to Formosa some time ago have succumbed to the climate and are now either in their graves or in hospital, that the Army Department in the island has been obliged to apply for another batch of the same. The new squad is to be despatched in a few days, together with fifteen extra nurses from the Tokyo Military Hospital.

The writer of "Notes by the Way" in the *Japan Gazette* says:—Reports reach me of a regrettable nature as to the harshness of discipline on the *Centurion*. This is said to be so severe that very few of the young men after this commission will ever go to sea again. Now this ought not to be. England needs all her sailors, and a flagship, of all ships, ought to attract, not repel the men, and the officers ought to take as much pride in having a crew who are proud of their ship as in having everything in the best spick-and-span order. It is the petty inconveniences that make life unbearable and with a little tact the officers could easily remove the discontent and its memories.

On the occasion of the coronation of His Imperial Majesty the Czar at Moscow, the Russian representative at Tientsin, Mr. Victor Grosse, gave an elaborate *déjeuner* at the Russian Consulate, on the 26th ult., at which His Excellency Viceroy Wang, Taotais Li and Hu, the Consular Body of Tientsin, the commanders of the *Monocacy*, *Linnet*, and *Maya*, the Commissioner of Customs, and others were present. The Viceroy made a speech in which he dwelt on the greatness of Russia and the high qualities of the Czar, and proposed his health and that of the Czarina. Mr. Grosse, in replying to the Viceroy in Chinese, thanked His Excellency in fitting terms for his kind words, and, proposing the health of their Imperial Majesties the Empress Dowager and Emperor of China, expressed the hope that H.I.M. might be as famous in history as his illustrious ancestor and contemporary of Peter the Great—the Emperor K'anghsi. At the termination of the Viceroy's speech a salute of 21 guns was fired from the flotilla of Chinese gunboats anchored abreast of the British settlement. The *déjeuner* was interspersed with toasts and music—operatic and national airs—by the Municipal Band, and was altogether a most enjoyable affair.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

ADDITIONAL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THE HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Reuter is vague in his reference to the despatch conveying the Secretary of State's decision concerning the creation of additional unofficial members of the Legislative Council of Hongkong. Whether the decision is favourable or unfavourable is not stated, and we will apparently have nothing more than conjecture to feed ourselves upon during the month that the despatch will occupy in transit. While, however, the terms of the telegram do not preclude the possibility of the reply being unfavourable to the aspiration of the colony for a more effective voice in the management of its own local affairs, the probabilities are all in favour of its being favourable, and on the strength of that probability we have much pleasure in congratulating the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD on the gallant manner in which he has fought the colony's battle and on the success which, as we hope and believe, has crowned his efforts. If after all the assumed success should turn out to be a disappointment we have no doubt the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce will continue the struggle, for there is not much of the giving in spirit about Mr. WHITEHEAD. But there cannot really be much question about the meaning of the telegram, which we take to be that a concession of some kind has been made, though how large or how small it may be remains to be seen. The information on which the telegram is based was probably given in the House of Commons in reply to a question, for when the local Government refused to produce the papers on the subject action was taken to have the matter ventilated in Parliament. If the Secretary of State had decided that things must remain as they are and that the prayer of the petition sent home by the inhabitants of Hongkong could not be granted a clear statement would no doubt have been made to that effect, as there could be no reason for reticence in the matter, whereas if changes are to be made it might be considered inexpedient to make public the nature of those changes until the Governor has been officially informed of them. Moreover, as strengthening the argument founded on probability, the well known opinions of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN on the subject of local self-government must not be overlooked. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is not a believer in government without knowledge or in official domination, and as a man of common sense he could not fail to recognise the justice and expediency of acceding to the request that the resident British population should be allowed to take an effective part in the administration of the colony. Governors come and go, and even in the office of Colonial Secretary there have in the past been frequent changes, but there is a continuity in the public opinion of the colony and in the local knowledge acquired by the mercantile classes which may with great advantage be availed of in shaping the policy of the Government.

When the unofficial majority get into working order one of the first objects to which they should address themselves is that of securing for the ratepayers greater control over municipal affairs, if not by the establishment of a Municipal Council, then by the unofficial members themselves exercising analogous functions through a system of committees of the Legislative Council.

THE ADMINISTRATION DURING THE GOVERNOR'S ABSENCE.

Another change has been made in the arrangement for the administration of the Government of Hongkong during the absence or incapacity of the Governor. By the Charter of the colony dated 5th April, 1843, it was ordered that in the event referred to the powers of the Governor should be exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor, or, if there were no Lieutenant-Governor, by the Colonial Secretary. The office of Lieutenant-Governor was for some years held by the General Officer Commanding the Garrison, then for a term by Colonel CAINE, who belonged to the Colonial Service, and subsequently again by the General, but afterwards the office of Lieutenant-Governor was allowed to remain vacant. The question then arose, who was to administer the Government in the event of both the Governor and the Colonial Secretary being absent at the same time? Accordingly in 1875 a Supplemental Charter was issued appointing "the Colonial Secretary or person lawfully discharging the functions of Colonial Secretary" to administer the Government during the absence of the Governor. But experience showed, or was supposed to show, that an Acting Colonial Secretary was not altogether desirable as an Acting Governor, the office being sometimes held by a comparatively junior officer, and at one time a report went into circulation that a foreign Admiral on going to call officially at Government House felt himself rather affronted on being ushered into the presence of a gentleman whose substantive office the Admiral thought so far beneath his own that ordinarily they would not have met on terms of equality. A feeling of that kind, certainly the expression of it, might be ascribed to snobbishness, but nevertheless there were substantial objections to the office of Acting Governor being held by a junior officer, even though it was only for a few weeks while the Governor went to Japan for a short vacation. In 1884, therefore, a Commission was issued appointing the Colonial Secretary to act for the Governor during the latter's absence, and in the event of the Colonial Secretary being also absent, the General. In 1888, when Letters Patent were issued in substitution for the Charter, it was ordered that the office of Acting Governor should be held by such person or persons as might be appointed under the Queen's sign manual and signet, and in default of any such appointment by the person lawfully discharging the functions of Colonial Secretary. In 1891, again, a dormant commission was issued directing that in the absence of the Governor and the Colonial Secretary the Senior Military Officer should administer the Government, thus once more precluding an Acting Colonial Secretary from succeeding to the administratorship. Now a further change has been made and by the dormant commission of the 31st January last, published in another column, it will be seen that the Senior Military Officer is always to administer the Government during the absence of the Governor, thus cutting out the Colonial Secretary from the office of Acting Governor altogether. No reason has been publicly assigned for the change, nor do we know what considerations may have actuated the Secretary of State in the matter, but the new order will, we think, commend itself to public opinion. The colony was very well served by General CAMERON and General BARKER in the office of Acting Governor and would, we have no doubt, be

equally well served by General BLACK. The senior officer in command of the troops must of necessity be a man of experience, and by his position he is qualified to support the office of Acting Governor with due dignity, while as to knowledge of the requirements of the colony he is in no worse a position than a civil Governor new to the place. At the same time it must be admitted that when the Government has been administered by Colonial Secretaries in the past, as, for instance, by Sir W. H. MARSH or Sir FRANCIS FLEMING, the public has had no substantial reason to be dissatisfied with the arrangement, and we have no doubt that if Mr. STEWART LOCKHART had succeeded to the Acting Governorship he also would have supported the office with due dignity and would have divested himself of his strong official partizanship and discharged the duties with impartiality, treating public opinion with more respect than he seems inclined to do as Colonial Secretary. Mr. LOCKHART has had a very successful career in the colony and perhaps some regret may be felt that the honour of occupying Government House and being styled His Excellency when the Governor happens to be absent has been placed out of his reach, but possibly it is consideration of the fact that Mr. LOCKHART is a comparatively young man even for the office of Colonial Secretary that has led to the change which debars him from the office of Acting Governor. As a matter of fact the choice between the General and the Colonial Secretary for the position of Acting Governor is not one of very grave moment to the colony, and experience of the past (after the Acting Colonial Secretaries were ruled out) leaves the question of expediency rather nicely balanced; but on the whole we think the decision embodied in the commission now published is on the side of safety.

WHARFAGE ACCOMMODATION AND FERRY TRAFFIC.

In connection with the Praya Reclamation the question of the provision of wharfage accommodation has been raised by one of our evening contemporaries, which soundly rates the Government for its alleged inaction and illiberality. "The Government," says the *Telegraph*, "is behaving so foolishly, so unsystematically, so illiberally in the matter of new piers and wharves that one would think the object in view was to drive shipping from the place instead of to draw it hither." No evidence is adduced in support of this charge. The article then refers to the inadequate provision for the steam-launch and boat traffic, which is a separate matter, and then, coming back to the main subject, the questions are asked, "Are we to have an adequate supply of public wharves for the accommodation of the coast and river steamers erected and maintained at the expense of the colony, or are we to depend on individual effort for our requirements in that respect? Are the wharves to be at right angles to the Praya or parallel to it? Are they to be few or many, of wood or iron? How is the new sea front to be kept dredged and clear of sand and silt and free from dirt and bad smells?" Of these questions the first is the most important, and we think there can only be one answer to it, namely, that it is not desirable the Government should engage in the wharfage business. The existing wharves for the accommodation of sea-going vessels are sufficient for present requirements and when more are required it will be well to let private enterprise supply the

want. It is true that private monopolies are usually more burdensome than Government monopolies, but in the present case no question of monopoly arises, and the requirements of the shipping are more likely to be satisfactorily met under the influence of competition than if the Government took into its own hands the administration of all the wharves and established Government wharfage dues. If any scheme of that kind were adopted it would be absolutely necessary to establish a representative Harbour Board for the control and administration of the wharves, but even then the system, we are inclined to think, would not work so satisfactorily as the present one. The West Point Wharf and the Kowloon Wharves, now amalgamated, were constructed under special Ordinances, known respectively as Johnson's Wharves Ordinance and Chater's Wharves Ordinance. In these Ordinances we fail to find any trace of the illiberality alleged against the Government, and no doubt any marine lot holder who wished, either by himself or in conjunction with others as a public company, to engage in the wharfage business, could by legislation obtain similar powers and rights to those conferred by the Ordinances named. Permission may also be obtained for the construction of private piers, and it is desirable that such permission should be granted on the most liberal terms possible consistently with the preservation of the rights of the public; but the question of what are liberal or illiberal terms may afford room for difference of opinion and it is not much use entering on its discussion until the terms to which objection is taken are stated. If it be granted that it is desirable that the colony should depend on individual effort for its requirements in the matter of wharfage accommodation for sea-going vessels, then the questions of whether the wharves are to be at right angles to the Praya or parallel to it and whether they are to be of wood or iron may well be left for decision in each individual case as it arises. In some positions a wharf at right angles might be the better, and in others a parallel wharf; no hard and fast rule could be laid down. The question of wood or iron seems to concern principally the proprietors of the wharves and must depend on many conditions that can only be determined at the time of construction, such, for instance, as the relative prices of the two materials and the discovery of new or improved methods of protecting them from damage by water and marine insects. All things considered, we do not think any legitimate public grievance exists in respect of the policy, or absence of policy, of the Government in the matter of wharfage accommodation for sea-going vessels.

With reference to the alleged inadequate provision for steam-launch and boat traffic pending the completion of the new Praya, we are inclined to think the fault lies not so much in the want of adequate provision as in the absence of adequate regulation. Within a few yards of New Pedder's Wharf there is another landing stage, which is very seldom used, though there is no reason why it should not be, except that people object to walk the extra distance and instead overcrowd Pedder's Wharf. What is very much wanted is a wharf reserved exclusively for the Kowloon ferry traffic, and as a cognate subject may be mentioned the desirability of an improvement in the character of the boats by which the ferry is conducted. Designs for new ferry boats suitable for the service were got out some years ago and we believe are still to be found in the Dock

Company's office. The scheme entertained at that time fell through, an arrangement being come to between the promoters and the proprietor of the "Star" launches. A more frequent and regular service resulted from that arrangement, but with the rapid development of Kowloon and the great increase in the traffic a larger and improved class of boat is called for. If the requirements in this direction were met residence at Kowloon would become still more popular with European residents and the pressure upon the house accommodation on this side would be proportionately relieved. The Government could hardly undertake the running of the ferry itself, but it might reasonably insist upon the boats complying with a certain fixed standard, introducing a Bill in the Legislative Council with that object if the existing powers are insufficient. The suggestion that the Government should reserve wharves specially or this traffic which the ferry boats should be allowed the free use of under suitable conditions as to the regularity of service and the class of boat employed seems worthy of consideration, both as securing an improved ferry service and a better regulation of the traffic at the wharves. The police have lately succeeded in preserving much better order at New Pedder's Wharf than formerly prevailed, but the state of affairs even as it exists now leaves much to be desired and is no credit to the colony.

COCKLOFT AND CUBICLES.—A MISTAKE IN THE LAW.

In reference to the correspondence between Mr. DANBY and the Sanitary Board the Director of Public Works expresses the hope that "a full and complete enquiry will be made into Mr. DANBY's allegations against the Board and its officers by apparently the only means now available, namely, a Royal Commission." That would be the most satisfactory course to adopt, except that a locally appointed Commission would be sufficient for the purpose, which is hardly of such national importance as to call for a Royal Commission, a term which Mr. COOPER has probably used only by inadvertence. It will be remembered that Mr. DANBY in his first communication, addressed to the Press, suggested that there was corruption in the administration of the sanitary regulations, and in support of his suggestion he mentioned that certain cocklofts which were legal had been torn down while illegal cocklofts had been allowed to remain, and that of two sunshades he indicated, which should have been treated alike, one had been removed and the other not. As to the sunshades the Sanitary Board makes practically no defence; but it is very possible that a mistake might be made in such a matter as the removal of a sunshade without any suspicion of corruption arising. The question is whether there have been many such instances, either in relation to sunshades or other matters. According to Mr. DANBY there have been many cases of unequal administration of the law in relation to cocklofts, and if that accusation could be sustained the suspicion of corruption would be confirmed. The Sanitary Board, however, says that the particular cocklofts Mr. DANBY characterised as legal are illegal and that those he characterised as illegal are legal. The question therefore resolves itself into a point of law, and on referring to the Ordinances to obtain light upon the point we have made what strikes us as a strange discovery. In December, 1894, an Ordinance was passed "to

"make further and better provision for the health of the colony," and which was of a very drastic nature in some of its provisions. In relation to cocklofts, however, instead of "making further and better provision" it seems by a side wind to have exempted a large proportion of cocklofts from regulation of any kind. The old law (Ordinance 15 of 1889, section 24) provided that "A mezzanine floor or storey shall have in every room a clear space both above and below it of nine vertical feet, where such floor or storey extends over more than two-thirds, and of six vertical feet where it extends over two-thirds or less than two-thirds of the greater dimension of such room." This is repealed by Ordinance 15 of 1894 and the following is substituted:—"It shall not be lawful to construct, put up, continue, or maintain in any room of any domestic building now or hereafter erected or in course of erection any mezzanine floor, storey, or cockloft where such room is partitioned or divided off into separate compartments without the permission in writing of the Sanitary Board." Where a room is not divided into cubicles, therefore, it appears that there are no regulations in force with reference to cocklofts, which may be erected by the owner or tenant, as the case may be, entirely according to his own ideas. That is in effect the answer of the Sanitary Board to Mr. DANBY; it says the rooms he refers to were not divided off, therefore the regulations do not apply. If the Sanitary Board is correct in this contention, and it appears to be so, a grave error has been made in the law. It is provided that in new buildings no mezzanine floors whatever shall be allowed except on a ground floor used as a shop or workshop and then only with the permission of the Sanitary Board. While making such stringent regulations with reference to new buildings the legislature could never have intended to remove the already existing regulations with reference to mezzanine floors in old buildings. The point does not appear to have been mentioned at all in the debates in Council or in the Sanitary Board nor to have had attention drawn to it in any way whatsoever.

SHANGHAI BUNDERS.

It is to be regretted on all accounts that so many doubtful rumours bearing on international relations should find their way into some of our Shanghai contemporaries. It is more serious, however, when unfounded reports are given special publicity in the great London dailies. The *Times* has just been made the medium for the propagation of a statement that was promptly telegraphed out by Reuter and has, almost as promptly, been contradicted by that Agency. It was stated that Herr VON BRANDT, formerly German Minister to China, had been appointed adviser for Foreign Affairs to the Tsung-li Yamen with the rank of Minister. A similar statement, in the shape of a rumour, if we remember rightly, obtained currency in a northern contemporary, but no one took the trouble to deny it then, though it was not credited. When the statement is made in *The Times*, however, it becomes a different matter, and it was very soon repudiated. The contradiction will, of course, gain equal circulation with the announcement, and probably no actual harm will be done in this case, beyond possible annoyance to Herr VON BRANDT and his friends. But it might have proved otherwise. It is quite within the bounds of pro-

bability that two nations may be set by the ears by some miserable piece of unveracity of this kind. All kinds of stories about Russia have latterly been in the air, and some of very doubtful seeming truth. Russia has been accused of taking Korea under a protectorate, of aggression at Chefoo, and of secretly ordering Japan out of Formosa. It has also been asserted that she has proposed an alliance to Japan. Now it may be Russia's policy to push her way in Korea; it is possible she may think that her opportunities in China require a little cautious pushing, and she may be inclined to urge on the development of events. It is also just possible that in pursuance of her reputed understanding with France she may have decided to develop a policy in the Far East unacceptable to Great Britain. But whatever may be the facts, or may appear to be the facts, matters are not likely to be improved by the dissemination of reports which can have no object except to create ill feeling between the subjects of the two Powers and to deepen the impression that their policy must necessarily be hostile to each other. There is actually no reason why Great Britain and Russia should not remain in complete accord on all matters of policy in the Far East. Their interests need not run counter, and with the single exception of the commercial policy of Russia being, like that of most Continental Powers, strongly protectionist, there is no insurmountable obstacle to a close alliance between them on Asiatic policy. The real stumbling block in this matter is no doubt Russia's obligations to France, but it would probably be a mistake to regard that understanding too seriously. The alliance, such as it is, will last just so long as Russia finds France useful to her, as there can be little sympathy between the autocratic Government of the Czar and the republican administration of France. For the moment it suits Russia to run with France, and meantime it is necessary for Great Britain to keep a sharp look out on the course of events. But it is not necessary, and it is most inadvisable, for the British Press to make mountains out of molehills, to imagine hostile intentions where none are apparent, or to attribute sinister intentions where none are harboured. Our business is to be prepared against all possible contingencies, to keep our powder dry and have plenty of it, to see that we are nowhere outnumbered afloat, that the garrisons of our coaling stations are adequate for self-protection, to avoid any needless interference with our neighbours and any gratuitous wounding of their *amour propre*. There is room in the world for the exercise of all our energies, if properly directed, but it is a mistake to suppose—or to act as if we supposed—that we held the reversion to all the misgoverned territories in the world. If we are to avoid friction and possible war in the future there will have to be some give and take, for all the principal powers have acquired the belief that they require space wherein to expand, and are ready to quarrel with those who would for a moment question their claim.

Comment has been aroused by the nature of some of the goods imported under the regulation which exempts from duty foreign products intended for the use of the Chinese Government. In one case, we understand, a quantity of foreign manufactured articles, unsuited for arsenals, were admitted free of duty upon native official assurance that they were for Government use. The number of such permits is also said to have shown a marked increase, and it is suggested that the goods in some instances have found their way into the ordinary commercial channels.—*N. G. Daily News.*

RAILWAYS AND FENGSHUI.

If any foreign syndicate or company were permitted to construct a railway or railways in China one of the first of the inevitable difficulties raised would assuredly be that of *feng-shui*. Either the graves on the route would have to be interfered with or it would be alleged that they suffered from the maleficent effect of the innovation. The officials, as is their wont, would strenuously support the contention, and prolonged delay would ensue until the rapacious claims of the persons interested and of the officials could be squared. The general plea of the authorities on such occasions, when the prejudices or superstitions of the people are in question, is that they are powerless to contend against the popular will, and that if the foreign demand be persevered in riots and bloodshed will result, for which, they go on to urge, they cannot be liable, after having predicted such issue. The utter hollowness of these pretences had long been suspected, and of late years has been more than once conspicuously shown to be the veriest excuse for inaction or obstruction that could possibly be forged. The latest instance of this kind was afforded by the proclamation by the directorate of the Tientsin-Peking Railway now in course of construction addressed to the proprietors of land over which the line will have to pass, that "an Edict had been received authorising the payment of Tls. 10 per *mow*, and Tls. 8 extra for every *mow* of land "which contains graves, irrespective of the "number, on the land to be purchased by "the Railway Administration." This is very moderate compensation, and is to be made irrespective of the number of graves! No attempt at imposition will be tolerated: a fixed sum, and that a small one, is to be allowed to all who have graves along the route, and if they are not content they will be permitted to go without any compensation. The people will submit, for they know it will be useless to clamour for other terms. It would be interesting to know what terms the Chinese officials would consider fair compensation to native property owners if a foreign company were building the line! It is well to take note of these incidents, as a time may yet come when they may prove useful. Railway construction in China must prove very slow work if it is all to be carried out by the mandarins.

THE TREATY BETWEEN GERMANY AND JAPAN.

Hopes have been entertained by European residents in Japan that the new treaty with Germany would be somewhat more favourable to their interests than the treaty with Great Britain. At first it was stated that extra-territoriality was to be in part retained, but that was promptly contradicted. It was said, also, that valuable advantages had been secured for German trade, and, if that had been so, under the favoured nation clause the advantages would have been secured equally for the trade of all other treaty powers. The fact seems to be, however, that the German treaty follows strictly the lines of the British treaty in its substance, the variations being merely in matters of form due to the different usages of the respective nations in the drafting of international agreements. According to a Reuter's telegram dated the 1st May a list of the Customs duties to be levied in Japan under the new treaty on textile, iron, and steel goods has been published by the *Deutsche Volkswirtschaftliche Cor-*

respondenz. The duties are as follows:—Ten per cent. on velvet and on velveteen textiles; 10 per cent. on cotton textiles, pure or mixed; 8 per cent. on cottons, linen, hemp, and jute yarns; 8 per cent. on woolen and carded woollen yarns; 10 per cent. on other kinds of yarns; 10 per cent. each on half silk, satin, woollen textiles, covers, muslin, cloth, &c., linen textiles, iron wire, steel wire, and tin, steel, and iron rods; 5 per cent. each on pig iron and on rails, whether steel or iron; 10 per cent. on galvanized tin manufactured from hard steel, on tinplates, and on tubing. This is simply the tariff of the British treaty, with some little difference of nomenclature, and any advantages that may have been secured for German trade therefore do not lie in the direction of decreased import duties.

THE ACTING GOVERNORSHIP.

The following Dormant Commission passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet, appointing the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of Her Majesty's Regular Forces in the Colony of Hongkong to administer the Government in the event of the death, incapacity, or absence of the Governor, and of there being no Lieutenant Governor therein, is published in the *Gazette*:—

VICTORIA R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India: To the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of Our Regular Forces in Our Colony of Hongkong, Greeting.

We do, by this Our Commission under Our Sign Manual and Signet, appoint you, the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of Our Regular Forces in Our colony of Hongkong, to administer the Government of Our said colony and its dependencies, during Our pleasure, with all the powers, rights, privileges, and advantages to the same belonging or appertaining, whenever and so long as the office of Governor is vacant, or the Governor is incapable of discharging the duties of administration or is absent from the colony, and there is no Lieutenant Governor in the colony, or the Lieutenant Governor is incapable of administering the Government thereof.

II.—And We do in any such event hereby authorise, empower, and command you, the said Senior Military Officer, to exercise and perform all and singular the powers and directions contained in any Our Letters Patent for the time being in force relating to Our said colony and its dependencies, according to such orders and instructions as Our Governor hath already received or may hereafter receive from Us, and such further orders and instructions as you shall receive from Us.

III.—And further We do hereby appoint that this Our present Commission shall supersede Our Commission under Our Sign Manual and Signet, dated the twenty-first day of August, 1891, appointing Our Colonial Secretary of Our colony of Hongkong, or the Senior Military Officer for the time being in command of Our Regular Forces in Our said colony, to administer the Government of Our said colony and its dependencies in the events therein mentioned.

IV.—And We hereby command all and singular Our officers, ministers, and loving subjects in Our said colony and its dependencies, and all others whom it may concern, to take due notice hereof, and to give their ready obedience accordingly.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, this thirty-first day of January, 1896, in the fifty-ninth year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

A baseball match was played at Yokohama on the 23rd May between a Yokohama team and one drawn from the First High School at Tokyo. The foreigners scored only four points while their opponents made 29 and were heartily cheered.

SUPREME COURT.

June 4th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE
SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

LEUNG WUI, APPELLANT, v. INSPECTOR
STANTON, RESPONDENT.

This was an appeal against the decision of the Police Magistrate, whereby appellant was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for bringing into the colony two girls for the purposes of prostitution.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Looker, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) appeared for the appellant, and Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) appeared for the respondent, being instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor).

Mr. Francis said this was a motion for leave to appeal by way of re-hearing from the determination of the Police Magistrate. The application was made under sections 104 and 105 of the Police Magistrates Ordinance 10 of 1890 on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence before the Magistrate to support the conviction and there was abundant evidence on which he could have found the prisoner not guilty. The charge was that she unlawfully brought into this colony two girls named Chu Tong and Lai Tsoi U with intent to sell them or to hire them for the purposes of prostitution, so that there were two alternatives, and the offence charged was different from the offence stated in the finding. Although there was this difference counsel had not been furnished with a copy of the finding, and so far as the depositions were concerned there was nothing in them in reference to a conviction. It was not even stated that the woman was convicted. The depositions simply set out that the sentence was twelve months' hard labour, and it did not appear on the face of the depositions that there was a conviction.

The Acting Attorney-General said the conviction appeared on the first page of the depositions.

Mr. Francis—That is concocted and prepared at the Magistracy after the evidence has been taken and after the depositions have been signed and put away by the clerks. That has nothing to do with the proceedings at all.

The Acting Attorney-General—There is the warrant of commitment on which the prisoner was sent to gaol.

Mr. Francis—That has nothing to do with the depositions.

The Chief Justice—I think there ought to have been a note at the end of the depositions stating that there was a conviction. I think "twelve months' hard labour" is hardly formal enough.

Mr. Francis again complained that the finding was different from the offence charged.

The Chief Justice—I do not think that need arise in your argument.

Mr. Francis—I submit it is essential. I know nothing about any conviction except for the offence for which she was charged. I am not aware from the papers before me that she was found guilty of any offence. The warrant of commitment only goes to the gaol and is not seen by the prisoner or by her advisers.

The Chief Justice—Why have you not been furnished—

Mr. Francis—It is one of those mysterious things only to be explained at the Police Magistrate's office. We applied for a copy of the depositions and a copy of the conviction was not sent with them. If there has been an alteration in the conviction I should like to see it.

His Lordship—You have the charge.

Mr. Francis—Yes; that on the 27th April.

His Lordship—In regard to that, how is it that there are two girls in the charge? Can you put two girls in a charge like that?

The Acting Attorney-General—I must admit that that seems to me to be irregular. There ought to have been two separate charges made, and two separate and distinct punishments inflicted.

His Lordship—Then there is a double intent in the charge.

The Acting Attorney-General—The charge ought to have been only in one alternative and not in both. The prisoner ought to have been charged either with intent to sell the girls, or with intent to let them out for hire, and not with both.

His Lordship—But we are not really concerned with those two points now.

Mr. Francis—No, except that as Chief Justice of the colony you are responsible for the administration of justice. Here is a Police Court possessing a greater jurisdiction than any Sessions Court in England and nobody knows anything about the law or the administration of the law—neither the Magistrate nor his assistants.

The Chief Justice—Why did you not apply for an amended copy?

Mr. Francis—You might as well stand in the middle of the street and make such a request. It is the *cursus curiae* up there to do as they like. It is a record made out in the office after the whole case has been heard.

The Chief Justice then read the conviction, which was for unlawfully bringing into this colony a certain female named Chu Tong and another named Lui Tsai U for the purposes of prostitution.

Mr. Francis then proceeded to describe the Ordinance under which the charge was originally brought and said the conviction was made under an entirely different section of the Ordinance from that on which the charge was based. After further argument Mr. Francis submitted there was no evidence to show that the girls were brought into the colony—assuming that they were brought—for the purposes of prostitution. Every bit of evidence went to show that they were brought here for the purpose of being sent on to Siam as seamstresses. They had it in evidence that the girls came to the colony of their own accord and with the consent of their parents. In conclusion Mr. Francis said the Magistrate evidently considered that, apart from the evidence, it was a case which came under the section of the Ordinance, and that he was disgusted because he could not get the evidence to fit.

The Acting Attorney-General, in replying to the arguments of Mr. Francis, said with regard to the question raised as to the finding of the Magistrate being at variance with the charge as originally made, he would ask their lordships to refer to Ordinance 10 of 1890, which gave power to the Magistrate to convict on the evidence for an offence which was not identical to that mentioned in the charge.

His Lordship—You need not refer to that point any more, because I do not think it arises on this motion.

After further argument their Lordships granted a re-hearing subject to the respondents giving notice to the Registrar on or before the 11th June that they would proceed with the rehearing; otherwise the decision of the Magistrate would be quashed.

5th June.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE.)

XAVIER v. MCBIRNEY.

Lisbello J. Xavier sued R. McBirney, solicitor, for \$105.85 for goods supplied. Mr. Grist appeared for the plaintiff.

The plaintiff said he supplied the defendant, on his own request, with stationery and printing in March last. Defendant then paid \$50 on account, and lately he had paid \$25 as part of the balance of \$105.85, so that there was now \$80.85 due.

In answer to defendant, who had on a previous occasion admitted the debt in Court, plaintiff said the order for the goods was given in writing at the East Point Dairy. Mr. Ramjahn introduced him to defendant and said defendant was going to start a solicitor's business and therefore wanted some stationery.

His Lordship—You admitted the debt in Court the other day.

Mr. Grist—All the stationery bears the defendant's name.

His Lordship (to defendant)—I do not see that you have any defence. You are only wasting the time of the Court.

Defendant—I do not think I am. I have no recollection of having done what this witness says I did.

His Lordship—But you paid for part of the goods.

Defendant—At the time I paid the money there was a representation made to me that I would not be pressed and that Mr. Ramjahn would be looked to for a portion of the debt. On that understanding I paid.

His Lordship—I do not see that you can defend the case at all. If you are going to take action against Mr. Ramjahn you can call the plaintiff as a witness in the case. It is no good cross-examining him now with a view to shifting your own responsibility. Put this man in the box if you sue Mr. Ramjahn and you will see if Mr. Ramjahn has a good defence or not.

Defendant—If those two gentlemen between them arranged that Mr. Ramjahn should be liable I do not see why I should be called upon to pay all this.

His Lordship—If you had not acknowledged the debt orally in Court and if you had not paid some of the debt there might be some use in saying what you do. You cannot go back on what you have done.

Defendant—At the time of payment they made representations to me which they have not acted upon. I suppose I shall have to pay this sum.

His Lordship—I am afraid you will. I shall give judgment for the plaintiff for \$80.85.

NG PUI v. MATTHEWS.

The plaintiff, a flower seller, sued Lieutenant Matthews, of the Royal Artillery, for \$17.50 for plants supplied. Mr. Grist appeared for the plaintiff.

The plaintiff said that on the 20th of last month he supplied defendant, who was living at West Point, with one hundred pots of flowering plants and the price agreed upon was \$17.50. On the 22nd he called upon defendant to pay and he was told to call again on the 28th. The money had not yet been paid.

In answer to defendant plaintiff said there was no condition that the plants were sent on approval for a week, and that if defendant did not like them they were to be returned. If any died during the week witness was to replace them. He did replace thirty-five at the request of the defendant. The price agreed upon was not \$15. The plants were still at West Point.

Defendant, in his evidence, said the price agreed upon was \$15 a hundred and the plants were to be kept on approval for one week. Plaintiff promised to take them back if witness did not like them or if anything went wrong with them. The plants were delivered on the 20th May, and on the 22nd witness was ordered out of the house by the doctor as it was unhealthy. He told plaintiff to take away the plants and said if he did not they would be there at his risk. Plaintiff refused to take the plants away, although witness offered to pay coolie hire and any damage that had been done.

In answer to his Lordship witness said that if he had stayed in the house he would have kept forty of the plants. He had not seen them since the 22nd.

A lady supported the defendant's evidence respecting the arrangement with the plaintiff and the price to be paid.

His Lordship said the proper course was for the defendant to have gone to the house at the end of the week to see if the plants suited him or not. Judgment must be for the plaintiff for \$15.

HO WYSON v. G. J. PHILLIPPO.

Plaintiff, a solicitor, claimed \$545.85 from the defendant, a barrister, who is absent from the colony.

Plaintiff signed a promissory note for \$500 as security for the defendant, who was lent the money by Chan Yau Luk. Defendant failed to pay the money and plaintiff paid and obtained another promissory note from the defendant.

Judgment was given for the plaintiff, and leave to issue execution on some law books was granted.

8th June.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

MAN' WO. v. ON WO.

The plaintiff firm claimed \$2,762.37 for goods sold and delivered.

Hon. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson) appeared for the plaintiff firm and said the writ of summons was issued on the 12th May and when service was attempted it was found that the defendant had left the colony. The plaintiffs were wholesale bag dealers in Canton and between 22nd February and 2nd May they sold to the defendant, who carried on business in Hongkong, a large number of bags, the value of which was \$4,762.37. Defendant had paid to the plaintiffs \$2,000 on account, leaving a balance due of \$2,762.37, which defendant had refused to pay. After the issue of the writ of summons proceedings were taken by way of foreign attachment on the 13th May, and the usual notice was inserted in the *Daily Press* of the 14th and 15th May, in the *Government Gazette* of 16th and 23rd May, and in the *Chinese Mail* of 16th and 17th May, so that the requirements of the Code had been met.

His Lordship gave judgment for plaintiffs.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 4th June. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. H. B. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.

The Colonial Secretary at Singapore forwarded statistics of cholera cases at Singapore. From noon on the 22nd April to noon on the 11th May the number of deaths was 90. From noon on the 11th May to noon on the 18th May the number of deaths was 17, and from noon on the 18th May to noon on the 26th May the number was 30.

PLAGUE AT CANTON.

The Secretary read the following letter, which was received by the Colonial Secretary:—

H. M.'s Consulate,
Canton, 27th May, 1896.

Sir,—Referring to previous reports, I have the honour to inform you that in the city of Canton, so far as I can learn, there are still a considerable number of deaths from plague; but the disease has greatly abated in the suburbs.—I have, &c.,

E. H. FRASER,
Acting Consul.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

PLAGUE AT AMOY.

The following letter was laid before the meeting:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
1st June, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to state for the information of the Sanitary Board that Her Majesty's Consul at Amoy has telegraphed to this Government as follows:—"There are cases of plague reported here;" and that the Health Officer of the port has been instructed to keep a careful watch on all vessels arriving from that port, as well as from Swatow.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

END OF THE PLAGUE AT KIUNGCHOW.

The following letter was laid upon the table:—

H.M.'s Consulate, Kiungchow,
30th May, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the bubonic plague in this island is finished. As in other places where it has been, a case or two may still crop up, but I am supported by the best medical authority for stating that it is over.—I have, &c.,

O. JOHNSON,
Consul.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

EXTRA ASSISTANCE FOR PLAGUE WORK.

The following letter was read by the Secretary:—

Colonial Secretary's Office.

21st May, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to request that the Board will be so good as to consider the feasibility, in the event of the recurrence of plague in future years, of procuring such extra assistance as may be required elsewhere than from the ranks of the police, as that force is not numerically so strong as to warrant the withdrawal for any extended period of any of its members from their ordinary police duties except in cases of grave emergency.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

The following minutes were appended:—

The Secretary.—Fairly reliable men can generally be engaged locally, but for such a service and for a short period only the remuneration would necessarily have to be fairly high. The great objection to casual employes of this description is the want of a proper grip over them so as to ensure reasonable behaviour. If they were sworn in as special constables that would in some measure get over this difficulty. I do not suppose it is contemplated to so increase the permanent staff so that they would be able to effectively deal with virulent diseases that have assumed the proportions of an epidemic in a population of, say, 250,000 people.

The Health Officer.—Our sanitary staff must be strengthened in any case. In that way we may be able to guard against a recurrence of plague and other filth diseases.

The PRESIDENT.—I propose, with the approval of the Board, to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and to inform the Colonial Secretary that the subject will be dealt with in dealing with the estimates for next year.

The members approved.

MR. DANBY'S ALLEGATIONS.

The letter from Mr. Danby having reference to his previous letter to the Press concerning alleged actions of the cleansing gang and subsequent proceedings relative thereto was laid upon the table.

The President appended the following minute:—

Paragraph 2.—Doubtless the Board will accept with pleasure Mr. Danby's assurance, though personally I think if he had addressed his previous letter to the Secretary to the Board in the first instance much information might have been obtained which was by the publication of that letter placed out of the reach of the Board.

I hope that a full and complete enquiry will be made into Mr. Danby's allegations against the Board and its officers by apparently the only means now available, viz., a Royal Commission.

Paragraph 3.—I deny any animus whatever against Mr. Danby; my minute referred entirely to the subject of the letter before the Board.

Paragraph 4.—Refers to a visit paid me by Mr. Danby just as I was leaving my office to keep an appointment, and I so informed him and expressed a hope that his business would not detain me long.

Mr. Danby made a general complaint about the way in which the cleansing work was being carried on, which I informed him would be enquired into.

Mr. Danby then went on to state that a certain person, in no way connected with the Board, was receiving various sums of money to arrange for the continuance of cocklofts and on my informing Mr. Danby that I did not see what the Board had to do with that he informed me that he had called upon me as President and his inference was that the officers of the Board participated in such sums of money.

As Mr. Danby was unable to give me any information in support of such an inference beyond the alleged existence of illegal cocklofts, which we, however, found to be legal, further investigation by the Board without special powers appeared useless.

Paragraph 5.—The cases which Mr. Danby gave of legal cocklofts being pulled down and illegal ones being allowed to remain were duly investigated, and the result has already been reported to the Board.

Paragraph 6.—An enquiry of the nature required does not come within the scope of the Board's powers.

Paragraph 7.—The places were visited by a responsible officer and his report circulated to the Board, which in no way reflects on the integrity or discretion of the Board's officers.

Paragraph 8.—There was nothing in Mr. Danby's letter of the 14th ult. to identify the premises in Bonham Strand as those he visited with Mr. Ede and Mr. McCallum.

Paragraph 9.—The Board has decided that the alleged illegal cocklofts were legal.

Paragraphs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.—Refer to cocklofts and Government Notification 373.

On reference to that Notification and Ordinance 15 of 1894 it will be seen that the Notification, as clearly stated in the title, refers to "buildings erected before the passing of the Ordinance" and the condition under which permission will be granted to erect cocklofts in such buildings as are divided off into separate compartments. In the instances given by Mr. Danby the rooms were not so divided off and consequently the Notification does not apply.

Paragraph 19.—The cleansing gangs are working under the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health and not under those of the Secretary.

Paragraph 20.—There was nothing to identify the premises referred to in Mr. Danby's letter of the 14th ult. as those referred to in the Secretary's minute.

Paragraph 21.—The removal or otherwise of a sunshade is not left to the discretion of the police.

Paragraph 22.—Certain enquiries were made as to the charges made for preparing plans for alterations to cocklofts, and the statement contained in the Board's letter was the result of those enquiries. No reference was made to any person or profession in particular, but the result of the enquiry was given to show that, as Mr. Danby had stated, large sums were no doubt being paid to persons not connected with the Board in connection with alterations to and construction of cocklofts.

It is of course no business of mine what value persons place on their services and I fail to see the nature of the accusation Mr. Danby credits me with making against the whole of the architects in the colony.

The Secretary in the margin at that part of Mr. Danby's letter stating that the Notification No. 373 to his mind "places the illegality of these cocklofts beyond all dispute," wrote the following minute:—

Mr. Danby has evidently a difficulty in grasping the true meaning of the Notification. I attach a copy and have underlined the words in the first sentence (which must be read in conjunction with each condition. To make this quite clear I attach a second copy having the first sentence preceding such condition.

The PRESIDENT.—I propose, if members agree, to acknowledge the receipt of this letter from Mr. Danby and to inform him that it was duly laid before the Board at this meeting.

The members agreed.

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

Mr. E. A. Ram, assistant surveyor, forwarded his report for the quarter ended March 31st last. The total number of houses inspected or reported on was 4,852. Recommendations had been made with regard to the drainage arrangements in the cases of 3,830 houses, and notices had been served upon the owners calling upon them to amend defects in all these instances.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 23rd May the death rate was 27.5 per 1,000 per annum as against 18.7 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 30th May the rate was 42.4 as against 14.3 for the corresponding period of last year.

THE SERVICES OF RIFLEMEN DISPENSED WITH.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.—I

have to report that the cleansing gangs have now practically gone through the whole city; they have cleaned every Chinese house in the colony and I now beg to move—(1) That the services of thirty-two privates and non-commissioned officers of the Rifle Brigade be dispensed with from the end of this week. (2) That the services of the ten European constables and twenty-four of the Chinese constables be retained and also the services of the four privates and one non-commissioned officer of the Royal Engineers at present employed in house cleansing at Yaumati. One of the ten European constables is employed and will be employed for some little time with four of the Chinese constables. Another is employed on the launch engaged by the Board to look after boats, and eight will continue the house to house visitation in company with eight Chinese constables, and the remaining twelve Chinese constables are required for looking after the mat sheds which have been erected for the accommodation of persons turned out of their houses.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON.—I must say I think it is rather premature to stop the cleansing gang now. Last week the number of cases was greater than in any other week this year, and I think we ought

to wait until we see the result of the wet weather. If we compare matters with 1894 we find that there was an increase in the wet weather in that year owing to the fact that people lived indoors. I suggest that the action proposed be postponed.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—It seemed to me that there was nothing for them to do at the present moment.

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON—Why not?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Most of the districts have been gone through twice, and the houses are as clean as we can make Chinese houses. We are retaining the whole of the European staff. The cleansing was done by coolies, and only the Rifle Brigade men are being dispensed with, and we can get them again if they are required. At present there is no work for the thirty-two Riflemen.

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON—They might be employed usefully in the cleansing out of boats at Hongham and Mongkoktsui; they have not been cleansed at all.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—Do they come within our jurisdiction?

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON—I think so.

The PRESIDENT—I must say I agree with the Medical Officer of Health. I think a very great improvement has been made in the general condition of the colony as regards cleanliness. I believe the work has been thoroughly done, and it would certainly be of no use to keep men who have nothing at all to do. It would be a different matter if they were going away from the colony altogether, I hope the military authorities will again grant us the services of the men if they are unfortunately required. We can always find something to do in the houses. They do not reach an ideal stage, but at the same time I think it would be a very great mistake indeed, unless the houses were in such a state as to necessitate the strict measures that have been taken, to turn the men out simply for the purpose of finding them something to do. Under these circumstances I am inclined to support the Medical Officer of Health in recommending that their services should now be dispensed with. In regard to the statement that the number of last week's cases was larger than in any week during the present epidemic, that is so, no doubt; but the number of cases occurring in the city has considerably diminished. Last week I think there were only thirty-five cases. A good many have occurred in Kowloon, which is now being cleansed, and in Yaumati, Hongham, and there have been a great many in the harbour. The clearing out of the boats at Mongkoktsui and Taikoktsui would be a very difficult job and would require careful supervision, and I do not think it would be wise to get the services of the military for this purpose, but we can do the work by degrees when we get our own men, who know the people, to supervise it. Under these circumstances I support the proposal of the Medical Officer of Health.

The resolution was carried.

CLEANSING WORK.

During the past fortnight the cleansing gang have cleansed 1,751 houses comprising 1,911 floors. 2,229 notices to cleanse and lime-wash 4,422 houses have been issued up to the present.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

Surgeons Murakami and Yamada have forwarded a report to the Japanese Central Military Medical authorities about the plague that broke out in Anping from the 18th April. A Chinese woman was the first victim, though how she caught the disease is still unknown. From the first appearance of the plague up to the 6th May twenty-five persons were seized, of whom ten succumbed. In the family where the malady made its original attack one member after another was struck down, and the final result was five deaths in one house. Another family had four patients; another three; and two sufferers each were reported in three families. A noteworthy fact was that all these families were either connected by blood or lived close together, and were therefore in the habit of exchanging visits.—*Japan Mail*.

SANITARY SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary to the Sanitary Board and Sanitary Superintendent, in his report for 1895 submitted at the meeting of the Board on the 4th June, says:—

DRAINAGE WORKS.

In addition to the work carried out by owners of property of their own initiative a great number of houses, which were found on inspection to be in an insanitary condition, have been redrained at the request of the Board. I append a tabular statement.

It will be observed that according to this table a very large number of houses (2,035) have been carefully inspected and found to be defectively drained and consequently the owners have been called on to redrain them. In addition to these, 1,673 houses were found to be either in good order, so far as their drainage arrangements were concerned, or which only required to have down-pipes, traps, etc., etc., repaired to put them in good order.

The complaints concerning the choking of the new pipe-drains have been far less frequent than in past years. I feel sure that a great many Chinese householders have arrived at the conclusion that, after all, these water-tight glazed pipe-drains are superior to the old porous drains, and hence the malicious choking of these drains has practically ceased. It would be a good thing if they impressed on their servants that the breaking of the gratings over the inlets to the down-pipes and drains is the cause of a very considerable amount of damage to property and for which, to my mind, the tenants are responsible. Not infrequently the trap below the fresh air inlet to the drains gets choked. In most cases this trap can be readily cleared, but very often an ignorant house-coolie is told to clear it and he, not knowing how to go to work, frequently smashes the trap in his wild endeavour to ram the choking material further into the drain.

MARKETS AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The much-needed depôts for housing sheep and swine imported into the colony for slaughter were opened early in the year, when the old and exceedingly insanitary sheds which were situated in the midst of human habitations were abolished. The quiet and successful manner in which this change was effected is a matter for congratulation. The brutal Chinese method of weighing live swine continued during the year, but weighing machines having arrived this year (1896) it will soon be possible to put a complete stop to this cruel practice.

The fine new slaughter-house at Kennedy-town was opened on the 1st January, and it adequately meets the requirements of Victoria.

The Central Market was opened on the 1st of May. It is a very fine building and worthy of the colony as the central depôt for the distribution of most of the perishable articles of food.

The market shopkeepers objected strongly to the by-law which prohibits them from using their shops as dwellings for their assistants. When they found that objecting and petitioning was of no avail, the next step—a favourite one with Chinese—was to clamorously assert that their wares were being stolen. The appointment of two night watchmen and a firm enquiry into each case of alleged theft very soon put a stop to the clamour. When I find a person asserting all manner of roguery against others, I know that such person needs careful watching, and in the great majority of such cases he is sooner or later discovered to be a rogue himself; he has simply fallen into the vulgar error of estimating other people by the measure which he knows so well admirably fits himself.

Thirty-four sheds capable of housing 963 head of cattle, five sheds capable of housing 144 head of goats, and 815 pens capable of housing 6,033 head of swine, were duly licensed during the year. The housing of these animals in the colony is now, in the main, in a satisfactory condition. There are now very few places where these animals are housed under the same roof as the owner or the owner's servants, and such as may exist are in the smaller hamlets.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

These are fully dealt with in the Medical Officer of Health's report for the year under re-

view. I think it desirable, however, to append to this report the usual tabular statements and diagrams, so that the continuity of these may not be broken.

CEMETERIES.

The by-laws which came into force on the 1st January, 1892, have been steadily enforced, but unfortunately it has not yet been found practicable to lay out the cemeteries in the manner in which it is so desirable it should be done. An extension to the Mount Caroline cemetery is needed.

The following interments have been made during the year in each of the public cemeteries for Chinese, viz.:—Mount Davis, 629; Mount Caroline, 419; Kowloon, 382; Shaukiwan, 290; Aberdeen, 162; Stanley, 45; Shek-o, 5; total 1,932 interments.

The fees collected during the year amounted to \$1,475.60, and the cost of the staff laying out roads, etc., to \$2,324.90.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The by-laws for the compulsory reporting of infectious diseases made in 1888 were revoked in November, and a new set of by-laws, so far as registered medical practitioners are concerned, are very much on the same lines as the law in England which deals with this subject.

LAUNDRIES.

Only four of the public laundries have been let during the year. I anticipate that during the current year they will be all let, mainly owing to the gradual but firm enforcement of the by-laws regulating public laundries. I made a careful personal inspection of the whole of the laundries in the city in the latter part of the year and found that about two-thirds of them were in such a state that they could be registered. The remaining third will be dealt with as early as practicable.

BAKERIES.

The by-laws regulating this branch of food supply manufacture continue to be steadily and persistently enforced. Only six prosecutions for breaches of these by-laws occurred during the year. A conviction was obtained in each case.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

The by-laws for regulating these houses, which were made in March, 1891, came into force on the 1st January, 1895. The enforcement of these by-laws met with great opposition. Practically every coolie-master in the colony houses his workmen, and these workmen are nearly all indebted to him for, to them, considerable sums of money. These coolie-masters have therefore a very strong compelling power over their workmen and, as a rule, they exercise this power mercilessly. It was these coolie-masters who were the principal cause of the opposition, although I have very good reason for believing that they were supported by a considerable number of their countrymen who are occupying very good positions in the colony.

During the year 457 houses capable of accommodating 7,423 men were licensed, and the by-laws are being steadily enforced. Twenty-nine prosecutions were instituted for various breaches of the by-laws, and in each case conviction was obtained.

CONTRACTS.

City Conservancy.—The work of this contract was well carried out during the year.

City Scavenging.—The work of this contract was, on the whole, well carried out during the year. As in recent years, the final disposal of the refuse has been a source of considerable trouble. The place of disposal is on Chinese territory.

Kowloon Conservancy and Scavenging.—The work of this contract was fairly well carried out during the year. A few minor hitches occurred, but no one suffered any great inconvenience.

Shaukiwan Conservancy and Scavenging, Aberdeen Conservancy and Scavenging, Stanley Conservancy and Scavenging.—The work of these contracts was well carried out during the year. No complaints regarding them were received at this office.

The approximate quantity of house refuse, trade refuse, street sweepings, etc., removed by the scavenging contractors from Victoria, Hill, and Kowloon districts was 32,000 tons.

STAFF.

An important change was made in the disposition of the staff in November, by placing the

Inspectors of Nuisances directly under the orders of the recently appointed Medical Officer of Health. This change has been a great relief to me, inasmuch as it enables me to practically devote the whole of my time to the secretarial work of the Board. It is, however, somewhat anomalous that a large section of the Board's staff should be working directly under the orders of a gentleman who is himself a member of the staff of another department. However, the anomaly has not, so far, materially interfered with the successful working of the new arrangement.

In April Mr. W. E. Crow, Government Analyst, was lent to this department for particular service. His report to the Board, dated 23rd December and laid before the Board at a meeting held on the 16th January, 1896, states very fully the duties he performed.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon went on leave of absence in June, and Mr. Wm. Fisher has been performing his duties.

The six additional Inspectors added to the staff at the end of 1894 took up their duties on the 1st January, 1895. It is satisfactory to be able to record that they have all proved themselves to be active, energetic, and painstaking officials.

There is nothing calling for remark with regard to the other members of the staff.

CHINESE PETITION ON THE SANITARY REGULATIONS.

A petition has, we hear, been sent in to the Sanitary Board signed with the chops of over four hundred of the leading hongts and merchants in the neighbourhood of Bonham Strand, Wing Lok Street, and the Praya. The following is a translation of the petition:—

This petition is sent in by firms engaged in various branches of trade in Hongkong asking for mercy and that lenient steps may be taken in carrying out the sanitary laws, so that the people may have no cause of fear in the carrying on of their business. Hitherto, while carrying on our business in Hongkong, we have been kindly treated by the officials. After the outbreak of plague in Hongkong the year before last the Sanitary Board was constructed by the Government in order to clear away dirt and make the houses clean. Unexpectedly Hongkong has been again visited by plague this year. Though the persons attacked by the disease are allowed to return to their native country, the cases must be reported to the Sanitary Board and the patients examined by the doctors before they can leave the colony, and some, who were afraid to report to the Board, have died here.

According to the sanitary laws houses must be whitewashed and illegal cocklofts broken down. With these laws we agree and we dare not disobey them, for they are important laws for the safety of the people. We only ask that proper notice may be given and sufficient time allowed for the removal of our goods, so that they may not be destroyed. The Whitewash Brigade have, however, acted in a rough manner, which is disliked by all. They have only given notice in the afternoon and then come the next morning to whitewash the houses without allowing another minute to remove the goods which we have not had time to remove, and our goods have therefore been damaged by dirty water, so that a good part of our capital has been lost. This is a great injury to trade. Some cocklofts and other things which were quite legal have also been broken down and some illegal cocklofts and other things have remained unbroken. The right and the wrong mix together. The Brigade has not acted in accordance with the views of the Board, which wants to protect the people.

We sincerely hope that the Board will forward our petition to H.E. the Governor, so that in future we may be granted proper notice with sufficient time to whitewash our houses, and that persons suffering from plague may be allowed to return to their native countries without being called upon to report to the Board. For this the Hongkong merchants will be ever grateful.

The ship *Dundee*, which went ashore at Hyogo during the recent gale, was successfully floated on the 26th May.

THE CHARGE OF EMBEZZLEMENT AGAINST F. WALKER.

At the Police Court on the 3rd June before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Frank Walker, late manager of the Vacuum Oil Company in Hongkong, was charged on remand with embezzling \$2,572.76 belonging to the Company. Mr. Mounsey appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Looker represented the defendant.

Mr. Bottenheim, who was called on the last occasion, was recalled and said—I referred in my evidence to a telegram sent to the head office in Bombay in reply to a communication from them that I was to look after the office work in conjunction with the defendant. The telegram reads—"13th May. Management please transfer to Bottenheim. Telegraph confirmation." I also referred to a letter received from the head office by me mentioning the dilatoriness of Walker and asking me to make myself acquainted with the work. I produced a telegram I sent to the head office stating that Walker was \$2,500 odd deficient. I received the following reply—"Are you quite sure that Walker has committed embezzlement? Do you think he will abscond? Prevent his leaving the colony. In case of necessity you must arrest and make searching examination. Act cautiously; reply immediately." I saw my solicitor and we gave Walker all the opportunity we could to get the money. I received another telegram asking me why I had not replied and I sent a wire stating that Walker would be arrested that evening at seven o'clock. I afterwards wired that he had been arrested and that it was impossible to arrange guarantee. I then received the following telegram—"See lawyer, and arrange as you deem best; keep me well posted up."

Cross-examined—I have been in the Vacuum Oil Company for eight years. I entered the Company as travelling agent and I have been manager four years. My duties were to a certain extent similar to those of Walker here. I had to keep accounts of monies received for goods supplied and remit them to the office. I had to remit on the most favourable opportunity. We always had to remit all we received and under no circumstances only a part. I have not known of anyone not remitting the whole of the monies. Every man sent out from head office had written instructions. I have never known of different instructions being given. The general managers have visited the branches and agencies on two separate occasions since I have been in the East—about four and a half years, including one year's leave. I have held the position of manager since I came out to the East, but only in Japan—Yokohama and Kobe. On the visit of the general managers they made a general inspection and if they thought it necessary had an audit. They did not go through the books, and I do not think that was necessary. I was told to keep up books of account. I believe a small bill book was used by the defendant when he was first appointed here. I presume the Company took it for granted that he kept books. I should not think they instructed him not to keep books. No other case of this description has, to my knowledge, occurred in the Company. I had not the slightest idea that he was short in his accounts. The Company complained of his irregularity in his correspondence. Before I was appointed manager here I was perfectly certain that he was irregular in his work, but I did not know that he was short in his balance. I found a ledger, when inquiring about the system of bookkeeping, and it had not been properly kept. I offered to help him to make up the ledger if he cared for my assistance. The question of my taking over the business first cropped up in the telegram—"Management left to you. Affairs must be minutely examined." That was the first intimation I had that I was to take over the management. When I came here it never dawned upon me that I was to take over the management at a future date. Defendant never asked me to take over the management. He once suggested that he would like to leave Hongkong on account of ill health. He said "I am sick of the management here, and I wish you or any other person would take over the management." When I told him I refused to take a joint responsibility he telegraphed, with my

permission, asking for the management to be transferred to me. On the 20th of last month I told him I should want to have a list of the accounts that had not been remitted to Singapore, of the monies in his hands, and of the accounts outstanding. He showed no reluctance in letting me see the accounts, because he had to do so. If he had kept any back I could easily have checked him. I do not know whether the bill book was a private book. I could have found out whether the defendant was short without this book, as I could have got the information from Singapore. He told me after the bank book was made up that he did not know he was so much short in his accounts. When I struck the balance he said "it was impossible," and when he went through the accounts he said he could get the money as he expected to raise \$1,700 which was due to him. If he had paid the whole of the money the next day I should have considered he had committed a crime, as he had used money not belonging to him. A general manager of the Company was here last November and went into the business and asked defendant if the accounts were in order and he replied "Yes."

L. L. de Silva, clerk in the employ of the Vacuum Oil Company, spoke to collecting certain accounts and handing the money to the defendant.

This concluded the case for the prosecution and Mr. Looker asked for a remand as he wished to cite cases.

SENTENCE OF SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

At the Magistracy on the 4th June, before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, F. Walker, late manager of the Vacuum Oil Company in Hongkong, was charged on remand with embezzling the sum of \$2,572.76 belonging to the Company.

Mr. Looker addressed the Court for the defence and contended that no fraudulent intent had been proved by the prosecution. He also cited cases in support of his statement that a charge of embezzlement could not be sustained unless fraudulent intent was proved. He submitted that there was no evidence that the defendant fraudulently embezzled the money, and the prosecution had failed to prove any distinct act of embezzlement. Mr. Looker dwelt on the point that there had been no concealment by the defendant as to his shortness in the accounts, and said that if he had not voluntarily brought forward his pass book and his memos Mr. Bottenheim would not have found out for some time that the accused was short in his accounts. All that the prosecution had proved was that defendant was unbusiness like in his manner of doing business and keeping his books, but they had not proved the charge of embezzlement. He therefore submitted that the proper course for his Worship to adopt was to dismiss the case.

Mr. Mounsey then addressed the Court and contended that as regarded the plain facts of the case the charge had been fully brought home to the defendant. The question that remained was where had the money gone? There was no reason why defendant should have mixed the monies of the Company with his own private cash. The course he should have adopted was to keep a private account, but that he did not consider necessary, and the result was that the Company had not only been put to considerable expense and trouble in bringing this charge, but they were also the losers of the sum of \$2,572.76. In conclusion Mr. Mounsey submitted that the charge had been fully proved, and he confidently left the matter to the discretion of the Court.

His Worship—I have no hesitation in convicting the defendant. I give due weight to the fact that he gave every assistance to the prosecution when he was arrested, but the Court cannot do less than impose the maximum penalty that an inferior court has power to impose—six months' hard labour.

A cricket match played by teams from the *Edgar* and *Centurion* on the 28th ult., at Yokohama, was won by the *Edgar* by one run and eight wickets.

THE SECOND GYMKHANA MEETING.

The second Gymkhana meeting of the season was held at the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon under most favourable auspices. In the morning there were signs that wet weather would completely spoil the meeting, but fortunately the afternoon turned out bright and clear, and consequently there was a large attendance of spectators in the enclosure. The programme contained five events, all of which evoked much interest, particularly the last event, which provided a most exciting finish between Gray Leg and Vagabond. The band of the Rifle Brigade, under Mr. W. D. Peachey, played many delightful selections. The following is a list of the officials:—

Patrons:—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., His Excellency Major General Black, C.B., Commodore G. T. H. Boyes, R.N.

Committee:—Mr. R. Alexander, R.B., Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. Burney, R.A., Mr. M. Grote, Mr. V. Caesar Hawkins, Mr. T. F. Hough, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. J. Mackie, Mr. A. S. Manniers, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Mr. C. H. Nugent, R.E., Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Capt. Radclyffe, R.B., Commander W. F. Tunnard, R.N., and Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Judges:—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

Handicappers:—Mr. Hart Buck, Mr. M. Grote, and Mr. T. F. Hough.

Starter:—Capt. Burney, R.A.

Timekeeper:—Mr. J. Mackie.

Clerk of the Scales:—Mr. R. Alexander.

Hon. Treasurer:—Capt. Radclyffe.

Hon. Secretary:—Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G.

FIVE FURLONG RACE; first prize a cup, presented by Hart Buck, Esq., with \$20 added; 2nd, \$20; weight for inches with 5 lbs. added; polo ponies and subscription griffins of the season 1895-96 allowed 5 lbs.; winners of 1896 penalized for one win 5 lbs., two 10 lbs., three or more 14 lbs.; entrance \$3.

Mr. John Peel's The Laird, 11st. 6lbs.	(Mr. Boden)	1
Mr. Gresson's Vagabond, 11st. 3lbs. (Owner)		2
Dr. Noble's Grey Leg, 11st. 6lbs.	(Mr. Master)	3
Mr. Whitehead's Kingscote, 11st. 1lb.	(Mr. Jones)	0
Captain Radclyffe's Borderer, 11st. 3lbs.	(Owner)	0
Captain Burney's Baccarat, 10st. 13lbs.	(Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman)	0
Captain Palmer's Times, 11st. 1lb.	(Mr. Hunt)	0

The Laird and Baccarat led to the Black Rock, when Kingscote came to the front and maintained an advantage until reaching the straight, when The Laird rushed to the front again and won in a canter, Vagabond being second, and Grey Leg, who came well up in the straight, third. Time—1 min. 23 secs.

HURDLE RACE HANDICAP; one mile; first prize a cup, presented, with half the entrance fees; 2nd, \$20; 3rd saves stakes; entrance \$1, but if left in after 2 p.m. 1st June, \$3 extra.

Mr. Holland's Vapour, 10st. 12lbs.	(Mr. Boden)	1
Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 8lbs.	(Mr. Jones)	2
Captain Loveband's Artaxerxes, 10st. 10lbs.	(Capt. Radclyffe)	3
Mr. Lewin's Blue Green, 11st. 1lb. (Owner)		0

A capital start was made. Vapour was the first to clear and made a gap, Blue Green being second, and Voltigeur third on passing the grand stand for the first time. Blue Green was obstinate at the second hurdle and was left right out of the running. Vapour continued to lead, but on reaching the straight was almost overtaken by Voltigeur. Mr. Holland's pony, however, again increased his lead and won easily. Time—2 mins. 34 secs.

LADIES' NOMINATION; nominees to start on foot 50 yards from the winning post, run to their nominators, who will hand each man his coat, which he turns inside out, puts on and buttons, runs back to his pony, which is held 100 yards from the winning post, mounts "bare back" and rides home; first past the post with coat fully buttoned to win; six com-

petitors, two prizes; nine, three prizes; twelve, four prizes; entrance \$2. Entries will be taken on the course.

Nominator.	
Mr. Berger....	Mrs. Hawkins 1
Mr. Holland....	Miss Irene Johnston 2
Mr. Grayson....	Mrs. Eccles 3
Mr. Gresson....	Mrs. Dalrymple 0
Mr. Thompson....	Miss Danby 0
Mr. Lewin....	Madame O'Gorman 0

Mr. Thompson came in second, but was disqualified, as his jacket was not sufficiently buttoned.

LEMON CUTTING; number of runs to be decided by the Committee according to length of time available; three points for each fair cut; two points may be deducted or added for style and pace; first prize 70 per cent. of entrance fees with \$10 added; 2nd, 30 per cent. of entrance fees; entrance \$3. Entries will be taken on the course.

Captain Burney	1
Mr. Gresson	2
Mr. Grayson	0
Captain Welman	0
Captain Palmer	0
Mr. Lewin	0
Mr. Berger	0

Each competitor was allowed two runs. Captain Burney was awarded first prize and Mr. Gresson second.

ONCE ROUND HANDICAP; first prize \$60; 2nd \$20; entrance \$1, but if left in after 2 p.m. 1st June, \$3 extra.

Dr. Noble's Grey Leg, 11st. 1lb. (Mr. Master)	1
Mr. Gresson's Vagabond, 11st. 0lb.	(Mr. Gresson) 2
Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman's Morrison, 11st. 9lbs.	(Owner) 3
Mr. John Peel's The Laird, 12st. 0lb.	(Capt. Radclyffe) 0
Mr. Graham's Dunmore, 11st. 0lbs.	(Mr. Jones) 0
Mr. Holland's Vapour, 10st. 7lbs. (Mr. Boden)	0
Capt. Radclyffe's Borderer, 10st. 7lbs.	(Mr. Long) 0
Capt. Loveband's Artaxerxes, 10st. 9lbs.	(Mr. Power) 0

Grey Leg and Vapour made the running until the plantation was passed, when The Laird came up level with Vapour, who showed the way until reaching the rock, when Grey Leg went abreast of The Laird. Vagabond, however, came well out just before reaching the straight and he and Grey Leg ran a most exciting race home, the ponies being so close together on passing the winning post that it was impossible for the spectators to judge which had won. The award was given to Grey Leg, Morrison being third, about five lengths behind. Time, 3 mins. 2 secs.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

CARBINE COMPETITION.

The annual carbine competition was brought to a conclusion on Saturday, the events being volley firing and the consolation prize. Two teams only competed for the former, both from the Field Battery. Good scores were made by each section and as a tie was the result a second shoot was necessary. Results as under:—

VOLLEY FIRING.—Conditions.—Teams of one N.C.O. in command and six men from each section. Seven volleys, kneeling, at 300 yards. Time, one minute. Points deducted for bad volleys and exceeding time allowance.

Points. Deducted. Total.		
No. 1 Section Field Battery (Sergt. Wylie)	37	3 34—1
No. 2 Section Field Battery (Sergt. McPhail)	34	— 34—2

In shooting off No. 1 Section won by four points.

CONSOLATION PRIZE.—Seven shots, standing —150 yards.

Sergeant McPhail..... 24
We understand that the prizes will be distributed at Headquarters, a promenade concert taking place on the same evening. The date has not yet been fixed.

There were four cases of plague on Saturday. Two were from the city, one from Kowloon, and one from Quarry Bay.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A fair muster of members assembled on Saturday afternoon to compete for the Short Range Cup and Spoons, which were shot for over the 200 and 300 yards distances. Colour-Sergt. Hopkins, R.B., won the Cup for the second time with a good net score of 64; the Spoons falling to Mr. G. White, Colour-Sergt. Hopkins, R.B., and Petty Officer Goodger, R.N.

Appended are a few of the best scores:—

	200 yards.	300 yards.	Allowance for M. H. rifle.	Handicap.	Total.
Mr. G. White	31	25	4	10	70
Col.-Sergt. Hopkins, R.B.	34	30	—	—	64
P.O. Goodger, R.N.	29	23	4	7	63
Capt. Ferguson, R.B.	32	30	—	—	62
Mr. A. Brown	30	24	4	4	62
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	29	27	—	5	61
Mr. G. P. Lammert	30	22	4	4	60

THE STRANDING OF THE "CHEANG HOCK KIAN."

The following is the finding and order of a Naval Court held at Amoy on 1st day of June to investigate the circumstances attending the stranding of the British steamship *Cheang Hock Kian*, of the port of Penang, official number 16,840, when on a voyage from Amoy to Singapore, and the cause of such stranding, and to inquire into the conduct of the master, certificated first mate, second mate, and crew of the said vessel:—

The *Cheang Hock Kian* left Amoy harbour at 6.30 p.m. on 28th May at low water, and shortly afterwards struck on an unknown rock near Cocker Rock.

Before, during, and after the accident the master behaved in a seamanlike manner, and the officers and crew did their duty.

The Court considers that:—

1.—This case shows it is desirable there should be a more complete survey of the approaches to the harbour.

2.—At low water it is expedient that vessels entering and leaving Amoy should take the Eastern or Brown Channel.

3.—No master of a vessel over 15 feet draught, except an experienced coaster, should enter into or clear from the port without a pilot.

The Court returns the certificates of the master and mates.

The Court begs to express its appreciation of the quick and effective manner in which the I. M. Customs officers, pilots, and Captain Bathurst, of the steamer *Haimun*, proceeded to the spot and rendered assistance.

CHES. T. GARDNER, President,
H.B.M. Consul.

J. FARROW,
General Manager,
Merchant, and Master Mariner.

T. HALL,
Master of s.s. *Namoa*.
Members of Court.

M. C. ALLENBY, R.N.,
H.M.S. *Peacock*.
Amicus Curiae.

THE AMOY CUSTOMS REPORT.

The following is the Amoy Customs report for 1895:—

LOCAL.

For the general trader 1895 has been a fairly good year, but not for the tea merchant. The gross value shows a slight decrease when compared with the previous year's figures—Hk. Tls. 18,178,622, against Hk. Tls. 18,399,876. This apparent advance in the value of foreign imports and the corresponding decline in that of native imports are due to the Japanese occupation of Newchwang and to the cession of Formosa, arrivals from these places being treated as from foreign countries. The transfer of Formosa and the rebellion in that island had practically no effect on the trade of this port, excepting in Formosan tea, which suffered many vicissitudes and was extremely unsatisfactory for all concerned, foreigners and natives alike, who paid high prices on the supposition

that supplies would be short. Subsequent events, however, showed that tea in abundance was forthcoming, and that those who had paid "war prices" stood to lose heavily on their purchases. Local rice crops have been light, and the demand for American flour has continued.

REVENUE.

Tonnage and transit dues are the only branches under this heading which do not show a falling off. The total collection amounted to Hk. Tls. 701,150, a decline of Hk. Tls. 96,004 from the figures of the previous year; opium duties and likin are the principal causes of this large deficit. In export duties the shrinkage is partly owing to the reduced shipment of Amoy tea.

FOREIGN TRADE.

(a) *Imports*.—Among cotton goods an increase is to be noted in most of the items. Grey shirtings nearly reached the position they formerly attained, having risen to 34,683 pieces; while white shirtings slightly receded from the preceding year's figures. Indian cotton yarn retrograded 7,880 piculs. Under woollen goods, English camlets and Spanish stripes advanced somewhat; other items changed but little. Metals maintained a steady average; importations show, on the whole, figures very level with those of 1894, with the exception of iron of all kinds, for which there was an increased demand. The advance in old iron is partly due to the large amount salvaged from the wrecks of the *Bokhara* at the Pescadores and *Cape City* at Dodd Island. Tin shows a falling off of some 3,000 piculs. Under sundries, matches continued in demand, 612,583 gross having been imported, against 499,819 gross in 1894. Every other item has decreased, with the exception of American flour, of which 126,327 piculs entered the port, against 15,406 piculs in the previous year. American kerosine oil evinces a decline of 1,655,540 gallons, the deficiency being almost entirely made good by the Russian article in bulk, which was imported to the extent of 1,322,217 gallons. The balance has been nearly made up by the increase in the Langkat oil from Sumatra, 337,550 gallons, against 115,900 gallons in 1894. This comparatively new importation is expected to augment largely within the next few years, provided the Japanese do not open their wells in Formosa. The foreign import trade would be greatly facilitated and encouraged if goods paid transit dues as well as import duty at the moment of landing.

(b) *Exports*.—The Tamsui tea season opened early, the threatened Japanese attack making all anxious to export their tea, lest hostilities might prevent shipment. The consequences were high prices and hasty preparation, in the belief that the crop would be small. During the latter half of the year supplies of the later crops came forward in the usual quantity. The consuming markets, far from responding in any way to the high prices paid in the East, fell below their previous level, and were dull and dragging for the Formosan staple throughout the year. The losses on shipments made up to the 31st December were probably considerable. Chinese holders, unwilling to face the loss entailed, have been left with the unprecedented amount of 116,000 half-chests on their hands. From April to December Amoy oolongs failed to attract buyers, the large supplies of lower-grade tea from Japan, Shanghai, and Formosa having militated badly against the local article. The crop has now been purchased at rates showing a heavy loss to the growers, and teamen are disappointed, the more so as an effort had been made to raise the average quality of the crop by discontinuing the production of the lower grades. Under existing circumstances the already rapidly declining trade in Amoy tea will be seriously affected by competition with the Formosan product, if the latter under Japanese tariff pays a duty of less than half the Chinese rate and be also exempt from likin. What this decline has already been is shown by the following figures. Twenty-five years ago Hk. Tls. 2,000,000 was the annual income of the Amoy tea districts; to-day it is not Hk. Tls. 250,000. But there is no doubt that by prompt measures Amoy could successfully compete with Formosa for the Oolong tea business. The Amoy districts are amongst the finest in the world. With the

enlightened methods of cultivation adopted in India, Ceylon, and Japan, and such limited taxation as exists in those countries, the trade could be restored to prosperity, for with cheap labour, excellent water communication, and a magnificent harbour, Amoy oolongs need fear no rival. From the commencement of the season to date the shipment of teas is as follows:—

Pacific Mail O. & O. Steamship Companies' steamers	3,540,000
Northern Pacific Steamship and Railroad Company's steamers	2,452,798
Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steamers	1,037,922
Portland route steamers	442,984
Steamers via Suez	4,359,678

The increase in nankeens from 7 piculs in 1894 to 2,626 piculs in 1895 is due to the Japanese occupation of Formosa. The total value of exports to foreign countries was Hk. Tls. 1,639,636; for 1894, Hk. Tls. 1,431,180.

(c) *Re-exports*.—Foreign goods re-exported during 1895 aggregated Hk. Tls. 2,096,134, against Hk. Tls. 7,297 in 1894; the greater part went to Formosa.

COAST TRADE.

(a) *Original Shipments Coastwise*.—Although a diminution is noticeable in the value of native produce sent to Chinese ports, viz., Hk. Tls. 939,482, against Hk. Tls. 1,218,840 in 1894, this decline is due to the different treatment in our returns of certain localities, consequent upon the late war with Japan. The local staple—sugar—shows a decrease of some 45,000 piculs, though really produced to a greater extent than in the previous year, over 65,000 piculs, destined to the newly acquired possessions, appearing under exports to Japan. The prospect of a good crop of this article, noted in the 1894 Trade Report, has therefore been realised.

(b) *Reshipments Coastwise*.—The total value of the trade has decreased from Hk. Tls. 493,127 in 1894 to Hk. Tls. 380,487 in 1895.

(c) *Coastwise Arrivals*.—Beans and bean-cake both evince a large decline, owing to the partial stoppage of the trade with Newchwang. The figures for 1895 (including imports from Newchwang, which appear in the foreign import table) are 535,056 and 418,701 piculs respectively, against 606,572 and 876,368 piculs in 1894. Wheat rose from 134,166 to 178,914 piculs, and rice from 297,012 to 602,172 piculs, this advance being due partly to the failure of the local rice crops, previously noted, and partly to the increased demand arising from the presence of the troops withdrawn from Formosa. Tamsui tea has been treated under foreign exports.

INLAND TRANSIT.

(a) *Inwards*.—This traffic has risen from Hk. Tls. 466,539 in 1894 to Hk. Tls. 588,240 in 1895. Cotton goods of all descriptions have advanced, while the only item of importance which shows a decline—and that but slight—is kerosine oil. 3,055 passes were applied for, against 2,070 in 1894.

(b) *Outwards*.—Sugar of all kinds arrived in greater quantities, while hemp bags declined some 170,000 pieces. 374 passes were issued, against 302 in the previous year, and the trade shows an increment in value to the extent of Hk. Tls. 97,445.

SHIPPING.

The steady improvement during the last few years in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared continued in 1895. The total number of vessels, though slightly higher than in 1894, did not reach the figures recorded in the two previous years. The withdrawal of a large proportion of available foreign tonnage to fill the gap in the coast trade of Japan, caused by employing as transports numerous vessels of the Japanese steamer companies, is no doubt answerable for this decline, as was the case in the preceding year. The figures are 919 vessels entered, aggregating 861,401 tons, and 917 vessels cleared, 859,259 tons, against 907 vessels entered, 810,513 tons, and 913 vessels cleared, 814,465 tons, in 1894.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The departures of passengers increased from 85,961 in 1894 to 113,600 in 1895, and the arrivals from 60,204 to 74,012, the total inwards and outwards being the largest ever recorded. The increase is chiefly due to the number of Chinese who fled from the Formosan ports on the approach of the Japanese, and subsequently

returned to their homes when affairs had again quieted down on the island.

TREASURE.

Hk. Tls. 2,554,263 were imported in 1895, against Hk. Tls. 2,428,434 exported. Both these figures are in excess of those of 1894, more especially in the case of the amount exported, due doubtless to the exceptionally large quantity of treasure shipped to North Formosa, to buy up the native produce before the arrival of the Japanese. It is interesting to record the appearance of Japanese bank notes in the table. These arrived from Tamsui and Tainan valued at Hk. Tls. 22,533, and were exported to the extent of Hk. Tls. 11,728 to Japan.

OPIUM.

(a) *Foreign*.—Importations again show a decrease, though not so marked as that recorded in 1894. The net figures present a decline of 746 piculs, confined almost exclusively to Benares Patna. It is expected that the demand for the coming year will show but very little difference. The advertised sales in India for 1896 of Benares and Patna are slightly in excess of those for 1895, being 39,000 chests, against 37,260 chests. The quantity of morphia imported was 4,835 ounces, valued at Hk. Tls. 7,366, and of hypodermic syringes 128, valued at Hk. Tls. 131. These figures clearly indicate the existence of the morphia habit.

(b) *Native*.—The quantity of native opium produced in the districts adjacent to Amoy is said to be considerably over that of 1894, although the yield per mou was not so good. The figures given range from 3,000 to 4,000 piculs, but the lower amount is most likely to be correct. Only 6.61 piculs passed through this office during the year. As predicted in the 1894 report, a large increase has to be recorded in the importation of Szechuen and Yunnan opium. The net figures are 490 and 287 piculs respectively, against 21 and 35 piculs for the previous year, representing a net increase of 721 piculs on the two kinds. It is reported that at least 3,000 piculs of Szechuen and Yunnan opium arrive in Amoy, and the adjacent district by overland routes, and this drug having paid but little or no tax, is readily disposed of at a lower rate than that imported by steamer, which has acquitted itself of all taxes. About 500 piculs of Wenchow opium are said to have reached Chinchew by junk. The average price of duty-paid native opium for the year was Hk. Tls. 360 per picul, a considerably lower rate than that ruling in 1894. As the Japanese Customs are imposing a tax equal to Hk. Tls. 110 per picul on all opium arriving in Formosa, there will always be a considerable amount of smuggling carried on between that island and the mainland.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The example set by the China Navigation Company in availing themselves of the facilities offered by the hulk system, as noted in the trade report for 1894, has been followed during the year under review by the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company.

A local post office was opened on the 1st April, when the new stamps received from Europe came into circulation. Stamps to the value of \$1,500 have been sold.

The purchase of Chambé Valley, to be converted into a public recreation ground, was completed during the early part of the year, but after lengthy discussion the offer to sell the property to the community was withdrawn, and the land is now about to be used for building purposes.

The new Chinese reading-room and library, mentioned in the 1894 report, was formally opened in October.

A set of regulations regarding trade with Formosa, issued by the Japanese authorities, may well be noticed, more especially the rule declaring that only the ports Kelung, Tamsui, Anping, and Takow are open to trade. This restriction should materially increase our imports and exports, as the present junk trade between Amoy, Chinchew, Anhai, and the ports on the west coast of Formosa will in all probability be absorbed by steamers of foreign type.

There is a likelihood, at an early date, of steam-launches playing between Amoy and riverine ports, as also places along the coast, and with this object in view a Chinese syndicate, with a capital of \$60,000, is in course of forma-

tion. It is probable that in the first instance the conveyance of passengers only will be permitted, but doubtless as time goes on these vessels will also be utilised for carrying cargo.

The net total value of merchandise arrived and merchandise departed during 1895 may be seen from the following table:—

	Hk. Tls.
Net foreign imports, market value	7,358,564
Net native imports, market value	3,529,190
Net imports	10,887,754
Deduct duties and likin paid at Amoy	463,266
Net imports, minus duty	10,424,488
Deduct 7 per cent. for importers' profit, etc.	729,714
Imports, value at moment of landing	9,694,774
Original exports, market value	2,579,138
Add duty paid at Amoy	163,807
Exports, plus duty	2,742,945
Add 8 per cent. on market value for exporters' profit, etc.	206,331

Exports, value at moment of shipment 2,949,276
JAMES W. CARRALL,
Acting Commissioner of Customs.

THE NAVIGATION OF THE PEIHO.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—The river continues to be a source of great annoyance. There are no indications of a scour as yet, nor can it be looked for before the heavy rains begin. I think we have not far to look for the cause of this trouble. It is not simply the output of "Mud river," it is largely the lack of volume of water and less current in the steam. Until about five or six years ago there was very little complaint of the river silting up, such as we have had regularly for several years past. There was occasional trouble for a short period, but it was of short duration, and in every way less persistent. Several years ago began the digging of several canals to the eastward from the Peiho to relieve the congestion of the main stream, and the increasing danger of flooding to the city itself, and of breaks in the bank which would flood all the adjacent country. As a result, the navigation troubles began and have increased as the number of canals has increased, and the volume of water been carried out of its proper channel. As a further result, a large tract of country has been flooded for a series of years, and the people impoverished because they cannot plant their fields. For this suffering and destruction of the means of subsistence of thousands of agriculturists in hundreds of villages, the authorities are directly responsible. Further, breaks in the river banks have not been prevented, nor the danger to the city obviated. I believe it could easily be shown that instead these dangers have increased, because with the decrease of the volume of water and current in the river, there has been a corresponding decrease of scouring power, and hence an increasing increment of sediment deposited which remains as a permanent deposit. There is good reason to believe that the stoppage of these canals would be the beginning of a return to the old conditions when the steamers came up to the bund almost the entire season as a rule, and the return of prosperity to those villages which have been ruined by the canals. Devices to help the scour would have been much less expensive and more beneficial. But such work does not appear to commend itself to the Chinese—as witness your barred approach to Shanghai.

A cricket match between the Yokohama Cricket Club and the Fleet was played on the 27th May. The Navy went in first and made 66. Yokohama's score was 157. The Fleet in their second innings made 123 and their last wicket fell just as time was about to be called. A return match was played on the 30th, when Yokohama in their first innings made 156, the Fleet's score being 112. When time was called Yokohama in their second innings had made 72 for five wickets.

THE EXTENSION OF THE SETTLEMENT AT TIENTSIN.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Mercury* writes under date of 26th May:—

That Sir Claude Macdonald, H.B.M.'s Minister to China, is a man of his word, and one not likely to be humbugged by the Chinese, is evinced by the smart way in which he has already arranged the grant of 800 *mow* of land for the extra settlement for the British. He only had two interviews with the Tsungli Yamen officials and word has already reached us by wire to the above effect. H.E. the Viceroy knew all about it almost as soon as the affair was settled. Sir Claude is making the Chinese toe the line, and will have no *talkee talkee pidgin* like several of his predecessors. If he continues in the way he has begun it will not astonish me to hear that the Chinese will be glad to get rid of him and advise Her Majesty's Government to send him back to the Gold Coast. Lord Salisbury has evidently chosen the right man for the right place. British prestige has been on the wane in China since the lamented death of Sir Harry Parkes. What we want at Peking is a man who will not only talk of bringing his ships but will back up his demands. The question now asked by the Chinese is whether Russia will protest against the concession made by China to Great Britain, as Her Majesty's Government have done over the Chefoo *coup d'état*. The whole matter seems to me like a storm in a tea cup. Out of the 800 *mow* of land conceded to England for an extra settlement 400 of it is already purchased by the Tientsin Municipality.

FOREIGN EDUCATION IN CHINA.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Hyogo News* writes:—

During the past week we have had amongst us a large number of missionaries from various parts of China, assembled for the triennial conference of the Educational Association. To the general public, the quiet meetings, held day after day in the Presbyterian Mission Press Church, have been of little interest, and our newspapers do not appear to have caught their real significance.

The editorial mind is nothing if not comprehensive. It likes to settle Imperial politics; to direct the policy of Britain in the East, to expose the vast designs of Russia and counteract her secret plans; to settle the loans, the foreign relations, and the internal economy of the Chinese Empire; to lecture Japan and watch over Korea; to guide affairs in distant colonies, and pat Admirals and Generals on the back. In the editorial grasp the cosmos is a small and easily managed affair; but even the microcosmos of local history proves in reality too large for the would-be heaven-storming omnipotence of the editorial mind.

The Educational Association is not aggressive and makes little trouble in China; but it represents a power mightier than that of battalions and battleships. No one could have attended this series of meetings and heard reports of the educational forces at work both in great centres and remote corners of the eighteen provinces and not have apprehended that a real upheaving and liberating power is at work. It is lack of knowledge from which China suffers most. Ignorance is the soil in which its stupid isolation and overwhelming pride flourish. It may not be that we are on the eve of great upheavals or reforms, but it cannot be denied that in the mission school and college an entirely new character is being formed, and a most potent force is being developed.

I do not refer to the somewhat showy Anglo-Chinese education which fills our counting-houses with English-speaking but uneducated Chinese, and supplies mechanical interpreters to our various "Services;" but to the solid educational work of vernacular colleges and schools where on this foundation is built up a structure of civilizing knowledge and useful scientific enlightenment. All honour to the workers who devote themselves to this splendid service. They are preparing the reformers and scientists and leaders who shall be China's saviours in the future.

It may not be generally known how large an army of educationalists are labouring in China, nor how far-reaching is their work. There are:—

	For males.	For females.
Primary Schools	747	225
Secondary Schools	45	69
Colleges and Training Classes	32	14
	824	308

or a total of 1,132 schools and colleges.

The number of pupils is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Primary Schools	11,817	4,262
Secondary Schools	1,532	2,048
Colleges, &c.	1,224	416
Totals	14,573	6,726

The foreign teachers number about 350; their pupils over 21,000.

Now were these schools and colleges the only gift of the Christian civilization of the West to China, it would be a magnificent contribution to the country. Why the officials do not see that China has no such friends as the missionaries to whom she affords a grudging and inadequate protection and whose motives and work she so persistently suspects, it is hard to explain. It cannot be that all Western knowledge is distrusted; for there are Government colleges here and there, like the Tungwen Kwan in Peking and Canton, supported at great cost.

AGREEMENTS IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT.

In Her Majesty's Court for Hyogo and Osaka Mr. Justice Mowat on the 27th May gave judgment in the case of Reynell v. Cameron, in which the plaintiff, in whose employment the defendant had formerly been, sought to recover from the defendant the sum of £500 as liquidated damages for an alleged breach of agreement, the breach consisting in the defendant's engaging in business on his own account. Judgment was given for the defendant. The full text of the judgment is as follows:—

This action, instituted in H.B.M.'s Court for Hyogo and Osaka, was heard by me there under the provisions of sect. 38 of the Order in Council of 1865, as applied to H.B.M.'s Court for Japan by sect. 7 (2) of the Order of 1878.

The question in the case arises out of an agreement made in October, 1888, between the plaintiff and the defendant. In and prior to 1888 the plaintiff carried on business at Hyogo and Yokohama as H. E. Reynell and Co., general merchants; he was also carrying on a distinct business, but at Hyogo only, under the style of "W. Down." The nature of the business of W. Down (or, as it was later called, "The Kobe Drapery and Furnishing Company") is not described in the agreement, but from the evidence it appears to have been that of a drapery and furniture business. Being minded to extend that business by the addition of a tailoring department, the plaintiff, through an agent in Scotland, engaged the defendant, who was a tailor in Grantown, Elginshire, to come out to Hyogo under a five years' agreement of service. Defendant was to manage the business of W. Down, and also to conduct the new tailoring department. On the expiry of his agreement defendant went back to Scotland, but after some 14 months he returned to Hyogo, and commenced business there in the spring of 1895 on his own account as general shipper and import commission merchant. In the agreement of 1888 between him and the plaintiff it had been stipulated (clause 7) that "the said Alexander Cameron shall not at any time hereafter in Japan *** carry on or to (sic) be engaged or concerned or interested in the (sic) business at all resembling or connected with that of general merchants or tailors *** without the consent in writing of the said H. E. Reynell & Co., first had and obtained;" and in clause 10 it was further provided that "in case the said Alexander Cameron shall not perform all and every the stipulations and agreements contained in clause 7 of this contract, then the said Alexander Cameron shall pay to the said H. E. Reynell and Co. the sum of £500 as liquidated damages and not by way of

penalty." The defendant not having obtained the plaintiff's consent to establishing himself in business, and the plaintiff's demand for payment of the liquidated damages having been refused, this action was brought for the recovery and for an injunction till payment.

The defendant by his answer, while admitting that he is carrying on the business of a merchant, in the first place denies that such is a breach of clause 7 of the agreement. This contention rests upon the distinction drawn by his counsel between the term "merchant" and the words "general merchant" in clause 7, and supported by the meanings which (there was some evidence to show) these expressions bear in Scotland, where the agreement was signed, and of which country the defendant is a native. I may observe here, in fairness to him, that I am quite satisfied that he throughout honestly believed that there was nothing in the agreement which at all precluded him from setting up in business as he did.

The second ground of defence raised by his answer is that he was engaged to serve the plaintiff in his business only of general merchant or tailor, and that the restriction imposed upon him by clause 7 is in excess of what was necessary for the protection of the plaintiff in that business, and is "therefore oppressive, unreasonable, opposed to public policy, and void."

The plaintiff's contention, on the other hand, is (1) that carrying on business as a merchant or as a general merchant, assuming there is any distinction between them, is alike a breach of clause 7; (2) that the clause protects not only the plaintiff's business of W. Down, but also his business of H. E. Reynell & Co.; and (3) that it is not in restraint of trade, and that the £500, mentioned in clause 10, is to be considered only as a premium which defendant, if he started in business, was to pay plaintiff for the knowledge and experience which he would have acquired while in the plaintiff's employment. This last contention, however, was at the hearing practically abandoned, and that part of the case was argued on the general principles applicable to provisions in restraint of trade.

On the second point I hold that the true construction of the clause, when the agreement as a whole is examined, is that the protection which it gives to the plaintiff extends only to his business as W. Down, and not to his business as H. E. Reynell & Co. But then it is clear from the defendant's own evidence that he did deal with some of W. Down's customers in that part of the business which he, while servant of the plaintiff, had developed: the extent of such dealing is of course not material. It is not necessary, in the view I take of the case, to express any opinion on the first point, viz., whether the distinction sought to be drawn between merchant and general merchant in the special circumstances of this case be sustained. For in my judgment the defendant's plea as to restraint of trade is made out. The restriction imposed by the clause is larger than is reasonably necessary for the fair protection of the plaintiff; it is therefore—according to the latest authorities on the subject, to which I was referred by counsel on both sides—unreasonable in intendment of law, and accordingly void. It was, I think, not seriously disputed by plaintiff's counsel that a restraint of the defendant from trading "in Japan," could not be supported. The plaintiff carried on business as W. Down at Hyogo only; even as H. E. Reynell & Co. he carried on business only at Hyogo and Yokohama. There were therefore other treaty ports—for that is all that "Japan" in such agreements between British subjects really means—where the plaintiff's interest could not require that the defendant should not trade. It is true that in a somewhat similar case at Shanghai in 1888 (*Lane, Crawford v. Phillips*) the expression "China" was on the analogy of *Baines v. Geary* (35 Ch. D. 154) cut down to Shanghai and the other ports in which the plaintiffs had business dealings during the defendant's employment by them; but counsel for the defendant here referred me to the later case of *Baker v. Hedgecock* (39 Ch. D. 520) where Judge Chitty commented on *Baines v. Geary*. He said that he was not quite sure whether he read the judgment aright, but he did not think Mr. Justice North had intended to lay down any such principle as that

the Court could create or carve out a new covenant for the sake of validating an instrument which would otherwise be void. Earlier in his judgment occurs this passage, which has a direct bearing on the point here: "But if the plaintiff's agreement be good, then in every such case the Court could carve out of the unreasonable distance a distance which would be reasonable. Thus, if the covenant were, *e. g.*, not to carry on a business in any part of the whole world, the Court would be asked to uphold it by construing it as a covenant not to carry on the business within, say, a limit of two miles, which would in effect be making a new covenant, not that to which the parties agreed." And in *Mills v. Dunham* (1391 Ch. 1,576) the same judge, after referring during the argument to *Baker v. Hedgecock*, in the judgment (at p. 580) again lays down the proposition thus—"Where there is a question of severing the good from the bad part of a covenant or agreement of this kind, the Court must find in the agreement itself sufficient ground for making the severance; the Court must take great care not to create a new agreement for the parties, nor carve out of an unreasonable agreement something which would be reasonable, for the sake of upholding what would otherwise be void."

There will be judgment for the defendant.

After some argument on the question of costs his Honour said he thought costs had better abide by the event and the judgment would therefore be with costs.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Company, Limited, was held at Singapore on the 29th May, Mr. J. P. Joaquim, Chairman, presiding. There were also present—Mr. A. Reid, Mr. G. Pertile, directors, Mr. Neo Swee Hee, and Mr. E. Schwabe, secretary.

The Chairman explained that this was the adjourned meeting which stood over from last Saturday, and the report and accounts having been in the hands of the shareholders during the prescribed time he proposed that they should be taken as read. The report went fully into the operations of the Company during the last half year, and he had nothing to add to it. If there were any questions any shareholder wished to ask he should be pleased to answer them.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. Reid, the reports and accounts as presented were adopted.

The Chairman moved, Mr. Reid seconded, and it was carried, that Dr. Lim Boon Keng, the retiring director, should be re-elected.

Mr. A. J. Gunn was reappointed auditor on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Reid.

This concluded the business of the meeting.—Free Press.

SPECIAL PORTS IN JAPAN.

THE POSITION OF MOJI.

The law relating to the entrance and clearance of vessels engaged in foreign trade and to the importation and exportation of goods by such vessels outside open ports having been issued with the consent of the Diet, says the *Yomiuri*, the Government has selected various ports for enforcing the law therein. But Moji alone is not included in the selection, owing to objections raised by the Army Department. Though the law is at present applicable to Japanese vessels only, all the ports to be made special import and export ports under this law are, it is said, to become open ports, when the revised treaties come into force and vessels of Treaty powers can call at any port where Japanese vessels enter. It is feared, therefore, that it is dangerous to make such a special port of Moji, which stands at the mouth of the Inland Sea and forms a juncture of Kyushu and Sanyo-do. Such was the ground of the General Staff Department's objection to the opening of Moji. But speaking from the point of view of International law, such a fear is unfounded, for Japan can prohibit foreign vessels entering her territorial waters, which include the In-

land Sea, whenever she thinks necessary in case of an emergency. If she considers it disadvantageous to allow foreign vessels to call at Moji, she can at any time close the port by prohibiting her own vessels engaged in foreign trade from entering there at the same time. The coal exported from Moji amounts to 340,000 tons a year. All this coal will have to be sent to Hakata if Moji is not to be a special port, and in consequence Japan will have to lose a million yen in freight on account of coal alone, Hakata being about thirty miles farther from the Kyushu coal fields than Moji. Then the opening of the port being a commercial necessity, and their being no real cause for the fear expressed in military circles, it is expected by many business men that the Government will finally decide to apply the new law also to Moji.—*Japan Gazette*.

THE JAPANESE MERCHANT.

The longer we live in Japan the more difficult does it become to make any thoroughly accurate analysis of Japanese character. Many men have written many essays on the subject, but the impression conveyed in every case is that of a subjective, rather than an objective, picture. If we could approach the question from the proper point of view, whatever that may be, we should probably find no difficulty in agreeing about the solution, but there are such a multitude of prejudices to be got rid of on the threshold and so many traditional conceptions of cause and effect to be amended, that somehow we never find the proper point of view. The Japanese merchant, for example, is generally regarded by the foreigner as a very inferior sort of being, lacking the first element of commercial success, namely, a due perception of the value of good faith, and deficient also in the capacity of organization and perseverance. A part of this hostile judgment has become almost a household word. Nobody ventures to deny that commercial probity is sadly deficient in Japan, and that commercial progress is correspondingly retarded. Yet it is difficult to reconcile these theories with some facts that thrust themselves on our observation. Who are they that have derived most advantage from the foreign trade of the country; the foreigners who originated it, who have taken all its risks upon their shoulders and who have provided the capital and the experience necessary for carrying it on, or the Japanese who came into it with everything to learn and scarcely anything to lose? There can be no doubt about the answer. One fact speaks volumes. The bulk of the trade has increased nearly three-fold during the past nine years, but the number of foreigners engaged in it has remained almost the same. Should it not follow that the gains of these men are proportionately greater? There business having trebled, they ought to thrive at least twice as well as before. But there is no evidence of such prosperity on the foreign side. Only the Japanese flourish, fare sumptuously, and build up big fortunes. Westward of Yokohama proper the Japanese settlement grows perpetually until what was its verge a quarter of a century ago is now its centre. It seems that the lion's share of profit has fallen to the Japanese, whatever may be their defects and incapacities when measured by a Western standard. Nor is it in the matter of profit only that the Japanese can show a better record. They are also gradually and steadily encroaching upon the field hitherto occupied almost exclusively by foreigners. It has been a generally received article of faith that what is called "direct trade" must remain for a long time beyond the reach of the Japanese merchant, owing to his ignorance of foreign markets and his want of financial facilities. Besides, even the Japanese themselves must recognise that they could not possibly find better, cheaper, or more convenient commercial intermediaries between themselves and the outer world than the resident foreign merchants. At first, too, the attempts made by the Japanese individuals or companies to shake off the alien middleman proved such fiascos that their example was expected to be completely deterrent. But it was not. The ambition did not cease to be effective because its early results were disastrous. Little by little the Jap-

anese have crept into the foreigner's place, until last year their direct share in the export and import trade was 75 million yen against 1953 millions on the foreign side. In fact, their share has doubled within nine years, a rate of progress that cannot be reconciled with the disqualifications commonly attributed to them by foreigners. What is the truth, then, about the Japanese merchant? If success be any measure of competence, he is decidedly competent. The Chinese merchant has not obtained any such independent place in his country's foreign trade. He is either content to remain in the old groove or unable to emerge from it. There is another point of difference to be noted. The margin of profit that the Japanese leave to the foreigner is much narrower than that left by the Chinese. If any object of Japanese production attains a high value in Western markets, the Japanese trader manages to exact the last sen of the appreciation. Some critics call that greediness; others speak of it as astuteness. We do not pretend to determine, but we think that the last word has not by any means been said about the Japanese merchant.—*Japan Mail*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A SUGGESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—As the officers of the Hongkong Regiment have been good enough to intimate that their Band will be allowed to play for three consecutive Saturdays in the Botanical Gardens for the benefit of the public may I, through the medium of your valuable paper, suggest to the powers that be that they would be conferring a great boon on the European community by sending a few extra constables with instructions not to allow any Chinese wearing sleeveless jackets or pants drawn up to their knees to enter the place nor be seated on the benches with their legs up and scratching themselves. If any stranger or globe-trotter happen to pay a flying visit to the Gardens any afternoon his impression of Far Cathay must soon be dissipated by noticing the disgraceful sight. Such a state of affairs should not be tolerated any longer and the sooner the police put a stop to it the better for all concerned.—Yours faithfully,

AN OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1896.

A SHANGHAI BUNDER.

RUSSIA AND FORMOSA.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 1st June says:—A rumour was circulated to-day that a Russian fleet of ten men-of-war that have left Vladivostok rather hurriedly after the coronation of the Tsar, and supposed to rendezvous at Port Hamilton, has gone to Formosa instead. We have made inquiries of all steamers that have arrived from the South, but there was nothing seen of the fleet.

Editorially the same paper says:—

Sufficiently disquieting rumours reach us from Formosa which we would have refrained from mentioning, were it not that our sources of information are beyond question. There is unfortunately no doubt that, equally with the errors in Korea, the Japanese have failed to enlist on their side the sympathies of any section of the inhabitants of Formosa, native or Chinese. Russia has been claiming, in the position of universal protector, the right of remonstrating and, at all events, Russia has, failing to draw Japan into a rupture in Korea, been raising somewhat similar claims in Formosa. The exact position has been carefully concealed, but there is no doubt that considerable tension exists in the diplomatic relations of the two powers, and that Formosa has been introduced into the controversy. The crucial period of the 26th of May has passed, and signs are not wanting that Russia has entered again on what has been described as a splendid policy of aggression.

A STEAMER ASHORE.

By the courtesy of the chief officers of the I. C. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Esang* we learn that the Penang-owned steamer *Cheong Hokchiang* went ashore on the Coker Rock, Amoy, on the 28th May. She was outward bound from Amoy to Singapore; she had a number of Chinese passengers on board at the time of the accident, who immediately landed and returned to Amoy. When the tide rose the *Cheong Hokchiang* managed to back off and was beached on the Koolangsu side. The extent of the damage done had not transpired when the *Esang* left but it is surmised that it is not extensive, as her holds were dry. The opinion as to the cause of the stranding is due to one of the buoys being out of position, for the *Cheong Hokchiang* was in the usual channel taken by outward-bound ships when she stranded.—*Mercury*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG-NGOI SAN PO."]

A great thunderstorm was experienced at a village named Chuk-kai in Tung-kun district, on the 1st instant, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All the mat sheds on the beach were blown down, ten houses were unroofed, and several junks were capsized.

On the 1st instant three girls accompanied by several maidservants went to a photographer's shop to get their portraits taken. When they had been in the shop only a few minutes seven scoundrels broke in, seized the girls, and forced them into sedan chairs which they had in waiting for the purpose. They then carried the girls away. It is said that the victims of this outrage have been sold to houses of ill-fame and that they are forced to lead immoral lives.

On the second instant a blacksmith's apprentice in the city was beaten by his master with a pair of hot tongs for negligence of work. The apprentice cried out loudly. The kaifong people seeing that the boy was so cruelly treated wanted the master to pay fifty taels to the boy for compensation.

The thief who, as already reported, snatched a coat from a secondhand shop, committed suicide on the 2nd instant. It is said that he was forced to die by the Banner people, for they were afraid that he would give the names of the ringleaders of the riot if he was brought forward for trial.

The notorious robber named Chang-ming, who was arrested in Honam by a military officer some time ago, and who frankly confessed that he had committed many serious offences, was decapitated on the 3rd instant.

As oil is very dear in Canton and a catty is sold for fifteen cents, the local officers have issued a notice to prevent the further raising of the price.

A junk named *Tak-tui*, which left Canton for Wuchow on the 24th ultimo, foundered on her voyage on the 26th. All the passengers and crew, eighty altogether, were drowned.

HONGKONG.

The plague is, happily, apparently on the wane, as lately there has been a decided falling off in the number of cases, and for the past week only thirty-four cases have occurred. The total for the year is now 1,050. We have not had much rain this year and the water supply has been curtailed, but yesterday there was a sufficient quantity in the reservoirs to last over twenty days, but the streams are running and there are hopes that the storage will be considerably added to during the month. At the Police Court on Thursday F. Walker, late manager of the Vacuum Oil Company, was sent to gaol for six months for embezzling over \$2,500. On Thursday afternoon the Sanitary Board met, and on Saturday the second gymkhana of the season was held and proved very successful.

The appointment of Dr. John Bell to be Assistant Surgeon in the Medical Department is gazetted.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that twelve months' leave of absence has been granted to Captain C. M. Adamson, Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

There were 1,333 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 95 were Europeans. Her Majesty's approval of the British North Borneo Extradition Act is notified in the *Gazette*.

Lieut. Bellairs of H.M.S. *Centurion*, has been temporarily appointed to the command of H.M.S. *Pigmy*.

At the Police Court on Saturday a Chinaman was fined \$100 for having a revolver in his possession without a licence.

There were 5 cases of plague on the 3rd June, 8 on the 4th, 6 on the 5th, 4 on the 6th, 5 on the 7th, and 3 on the 8th.

A fifth dividend of 64 per cent. in the New Oriental Bank liquidation will be payable at the Chartered Bank or and after Monday, the 15th inst.

Mr. A. G. Romano, Consul-General for Portugal and Brazil in this colony, has been elected an honorary member of the Geographical Society of Lisbon.

We hear that subject to the approval of the Secretary of State competitive designs for the new Public Offices are to be invited. This is as it ought to be.

We understand a telegram has been sent to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales conveying the congratulations of the Hongkong Garrison on his winning the Derby.

The five men who were thought to be concerned together with the actual murderer in the robbery and murder at Wanchai were discharged on Thursday, there being no evidence against them.

The constitution of the Medical Board, as notified in Saturday's *Gazette*, is now as follows:—The Senior Military and Naval Medical Officers; the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. P. B. C. Ayres, C.M.G.; Dr. Hartigan, Hon. Ho Kai, Mr. H. L. Dalrymple; and Mr. N. J. Ede.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mines, being the result of the clean up for May:—"The mill ran 26 days crushing 1,000 tons yielding 442 ozs. of smelted gold. Forty-two tons of concentrates were calcined for a yield of 75 ozs."

Peter Gruenwald, the second engineer of the steamer *Martha*, was again brought before Hon. Commander Hastings on the 3rd June charged with shooting a couple of coolies on the vessel. On the application of Inspector Hanson the prisoner was remanded for another week, as the injured men are still in the hospital. No application was made for bail.

A successful raid on a gambling house at 30, Aberdeen Street was made on Tuesday night by Inspector Kemp, Detective Sergeant Holt, and a party of police. Not one of the gamblers escaped and in all twenty-two were taken to the Police Station. They were taken before Hon. Commander Hastings on the 3rd June and two of them, the masters of the house, were each fined \$50 each and each of the remainder was fined \$3.

The monthly competition by the Kowloon Dock detachment of the Volunteers for the Cup presented by Mr. J. Wallace took place on the 7th June on the Association Range, seven shots at 200, 400, and 500 yards. The Cup was won for the third time by Mr. William Stewart from scratch. The following are the highest scores:—

	200 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	H'cap.	T'th.
Mr. Wm. Stewart	30	30	24	—	84
Mr. W. M. Deas	21	33	24	6	84
Mr. H. McPhail	28	26	28	—	82
Mr. D. McDonald	25	32	22	3	82
Mr. G. White	31	27	16	3	77

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st May, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	\$1,631,523	1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	5,885,672	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	391,455	285,000
Total	\$7,908,650	3,785,000

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20\$63.00 to \$91.00

English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00	to	108.00
„ 22 to 24	109.00	to	112.00
„ 28 to 32	114.00	to	119.00
„ 38 to 42	124.00	to	131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece		
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40	to	1.55
7lbs.	1.85	to	2.05
8.4 lbs.	2.20	to	3.10
9 to 10 lbs	3.20	to	4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30	to	2.50
58 to 60 „	2.65	to	3.25
64 to 66 „	3.30	to	3.75
Fine „	4.05	to	6.90
Book-folds.	3.20	to	5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.60	to	1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.40	to	1.55
7lbs. (32 „), „	1.80	to	2.95
6lbs. (32 „), Mexs.	1.60	to	1.75
7lbs. (32 „), „	2.15	to	2.40
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.)	2.35	to	3.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 1 1/2 to 1 1/4	3.20	to	4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 5 lbs.	1.30	to	3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75	to	4.50
	per yard		
Damasks	0.12	to	0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07	to	0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21	to	0.28
Velvetens—18 in.	0.16	to	0.20
	per dozen		
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40	to	0.85

WOOLLENS

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60	to	0.95
German	1.00	to	1.15
Habit, Med. and Broad Cloths.	1.25	to	3.50
	per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.90	to	8.00
Assorted	7.00	to	8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00	to	27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	10.00	to	18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00	to	3.60
	per pair		
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.20	to	4.80

METALS

Iron—Nail Rod	3.05	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.00	to	—
Swedish Bar	4.75	to	4.80
Small Round Rod	3.55	to	—
Hoop	4.50	to	—
Old Wire Rope	3.00	to	—
Lead, Australian	6.70	to	—

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	25.50	to	—
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	25.00	to	—
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	24.50	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.75	to	—
Tin	35.50	to	35.75

Tin-Plates	4.90	to	—
	per cwt. case		
Steel	4.25	to	—

SUNDRIES

Quicksilver	105.50	to	—
	per box		
Window Glass	3.30	to	—
	per 10-gal. case		
Kerosene Oil	1.95	to	—

CLOSING QUOTATIONS

TUESDAY, 9th June.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.76
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.81
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.24
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	53 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	54 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	187 1/2
Bank, on demand	188
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	187 1/2
Bank, on demand	188

ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 1/4 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 1/2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.93
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	46.80

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 9th June.—The market has been a little more lively and business more brisk during the week under review. Rates generally, with few exceptions, have ruled from steady to firm and the market closes steady at quotations.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued quiet at 185 and 185 1/2 per cent. prem. with little or no business, and this notwithstanding a rise of £1 in the value of the stock in London, the last rate by wire (private advices) being £42 10s. buyers. At time of writing a small demand from the North seems likely to raise the market a point or two. On time we have heard of no transactions. Nationals continue steady at \$29 with small sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have been on offer during the week at \$79 1/2 without finding buyers. Cantons have changed hands, after a long period of neglect, at \$200 and \$197 1/2 at which latter there are buyers, but more shares are on offer at the former rate. Unions have further improved to \$227 1/2 with sales. Yangtszes and North-Chinas continue weak at quotations; in the former shares are on offer at \$140, but we have heard of no sales. Straits are still enquired for at \$29, but sellers refuse to part under \$29 1/2, at which rate a limited number of shares only are obtainable.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have remained at \$336 without sales, and close with sellers. Chinas, chiefly owing to a demand from the North, assisted by a few local orders, have been in request and as no shares were obtainable under \$94, transactions were effected at that rate and more shares are wanted.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macaos have been again dealt in pretty freely at \$34 1/2 for small and at \$34 for fair lots. At time of writing shares are offering at \$34 1/2. Indo-Chinas with a regular bombardment of shares from Shanghai have ruled weak with sales at \$69, \$68, \$67, and a small local sale was effected at \$66; market closes quiet at \$66 with sellers; we are informed that div. warrants of 16s. per share, left home by the mail of the 5th inst. Douglasses continue to improve and a good many shares have changed hands at \$61, \$62, \$63, \$63 1/2, and \$64 for cash, and at \$63, \$63 1/2, and \$64 for September. Several coast orders have been filled at these rates. Other Shipping stocks have ruled neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are obtainable at \$118, but we have heard of no business. Luzons have advanced a point to \$63 with sales, and close firm at that rate.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled very quiet with but few sales at \$14 1/2, \$15, \$15 1/2, and \$15 1/2. The result of the May clean up, viz., 442 oz. gold from 1,000 tons, and 75 oz. from 42 tons calcined, weakened the stock for the time being, and shares changed hands as low as \$14, the market recovering afterwards to \$15 1/2. Result of the cyanide process for May is not yet to hand. Market closes at \$15. Raubs have been very quiet, and beyond a few small sales at \$5.50 we have nothing to report. Balmorals and Olivers have been in request, but with the exception of small sales of the former at \$2 1/2, \$3, and \$3 1/2, and of Olivers at \$9 and \$4 1/2 we have heard of no business. At a private meeting of shareholders of the two Companies the shareholders expressed their willingness to transfer the properties to the Anglo-Australian Co. for (Olivers) £20,000 in cash and 20,000 £1 shares in New Co. and (Balmoral) 30,000 £1 shares in New Co. The General Managers are, we believe, endeavouring to get a little better terms for the Balmorals, and in the meantime the Anglo-Australian Co.'s expert now in Australia will verify the reports of

the Mines, and there is every probability of the transfer being made. [P.S.—We learn that the Anglo-Australian Co.'s expert has reported favourably on the Balmoral and Oliver properties, and that the Anglo-Australian Co. will pay all expenses from date; under these circumstances the transfer of the properties may be looked upon as *un fait accompli*.]

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have changed hands at 183 1/2 per cent. prem. for cash, at 185 for end of the month, and at 191 and 190 per cent. prem. for August; market closes with sellers at 184 1/2 for 30th inst., and at 191 per cent. prem. for August. Kowloon Wharves have ruled in good demand, and a fair number of shares have changed hands at \$48, \$49, \$50, and \$51 for cash, and at \$52 1/2 for July, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Wanchais, no business to report.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled quiet with small sales at \$71 and \$71 1/2; shares are still wanted at former rate, but are obtainable at the latter. Hotels appear to have again gone out of the market for the present, and we have no sales to report. West Points continue neglected at quotation, and Humphreys continue on offer at \$9 without finding buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands, have further improved to \$17 1/2, after sales at \$16 1/2 and \$17, and close firm with buyers at the last rate. A. S. Watsons continue out of favour with probable sellers at \$12.50. Electrics, after sales at \$7, close firm with buyers at \$7.25 and no sellers under \$7 1/2. Sales of Ropes are reported at \$122. Fenwicks have been in good demand, and a fair number have changed hands at \$26, \$26 1/2, \$27, and \$27 1/2, closing steady.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$356.87], sales
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	185 1/2 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$29, buyers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$115, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	15s.	\$7, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$5 1/2, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$117, sales & sellers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$0.50 sales
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$27, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$17 1/2, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7 1/2, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$96
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$35, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$51, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$122, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	183 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$353.75], sales
Canton	\$50	\$197 1/2, s. & buyers
China Fire	\$50	\$95, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$79 1/2, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North-China	£25	11s. 200 buyers
Straits	\$20	\$29, buyers
Union	\$25	\$227 1/2, sal. & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$140, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$71 1/2, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$18, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$64, sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500.	\$72 1/2
Jebeu	\$5	\$3
New Balmoral	\$3	\$3.15, s. & buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$9, sales & buyers
Do. B. ...	\$2 1/2	\$4 1/2, buyers
Punjom	\$4	\$15, sales & buyers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3.80 sales & buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.25, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$69, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	£7.10 sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8.10, sales & sellers
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$64, sales & sellers
H., Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$34 1/2, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$65, sales & buyers
Wanchai Wareh'ee Co.	\$37 1/2	\$40, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$12.50, sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Ceylon (str.), Moyine (str.), Hyson (str.), Manila (str.), Japan (str.), Manila (str.), Teucer (str.), Benedi (str.), Rosetta (str.), Glengarry (str.), Carmarthenshire (str.).
 For HAVRE.—Ceres (str.).
 For BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Socotra, China (str.).
 For VICTORIA.—Mount Lebanon (str.), Tacoma (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—Gerard C. Tobey, Sintram, Com. T. H. Allen, Benalder (str.), T. F. Oakes, Lucile Manuel Llaguno.
 For AUSTRALIA.—Whampoa (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

June—

ARRIVALS.

- 3, Wosang, British str., from Newchwang.
- 3, Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
- 4, Australian, British str., from Chefoo.
- 4, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., from London.
- 4, Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
- 4, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
- 4, Lyeemooon, German str., from Canton.
- 4, Agapathus, British str., from Kobe.
- 4, Macduff, British str., from Moji.
- 4, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 4, Benmohr, British str., from Moji.
- 5, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
- 5, Independent, Ger. str., from Newchwang.
- 5, Daphne, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 5, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 5, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
- 5, Undaunted, British cruiser, from S'pore.
- 6, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
- 6, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 6, Kaifong, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
- 6, Shelley, British str., from Saigon.
- 6, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
- 6, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
- 6, Hupeh, German str., from Java.
- 6, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Swatow.
- 6, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
- 6, T. F. Oakes, Amr. ship, from Shanghai.
- 7, Bygdo, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Chwushan, British str., for Saigon.
- 7, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
- 7, Doris, German str., from Newchwang.
- 7, Haimun, British str., from Amoy.
- 7, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 7, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 8, Choysang, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 8, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 8, Storo Nordiske, Danish str., from Amoy.
- 8, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
- 8, Australian, British str., from Canton.
- 8, Independent, German str., from Canton.
- 8, Apenrade, German str., from Amoy.
- 9, Hunan, British str., from Wuhu.
- 9, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.
- 9, Natal, French str., from Shanghai.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 4, Mascotte, British str., for Saigon.
- 4, Mazagon, British str., for Yokohama.
- 4, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 4, Hohenzollern, German str., Yokohama.
- 4, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
- 4, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 4, Mirzapore, British str., for Europe.
- 4, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, St. Louis, French str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Telamon, British str., for London.
- 4, Tetartos, German str., for Amoy.
- 4, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
- 5, Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
- 5, Benlarig, British str., for Saigon.
- 5, Braemar, British str., for Foochow.
- 5, Stanfield, British bark, for Rajang.

5, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.

5, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.

5, Australian, British str., for Whampoa.

5, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.

5, Independent, Ger. str., for Canton.

5, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.

5, Lyeemooon, German str., for Shanghai.

5, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Japan.

5, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Trieste.

6, Annandale, British str., for K'notzu.

6, Daphne, German str., for Canton.

6, Arthur Head, British str., for Kobe.

6, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.

6, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.

6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.

6, Hydaspes, British str., for London.

6, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.

6, Kalgan, British str., for Chefoo.

7, Agapathus, British str., for Singapore.

7, Airlie, British str., for Australia.

7, Algingia, German str., for Saigon.

7, Alderley, British str., for Bangkok.

7, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Canton.

7, Canton, British str., for Canton.

7, China, German str., for Bangkok.

7, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.

7, Doris, German str., for Canton.

7, Gloucester City, British str., for Bangkok.

7, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.

8, Choysang, British str., for Canton.

8, Hoihow, British str., for Shanghai.

8, Loksang, British str., for Swatow.

9, Deike Rickmers, Ger. str., for Singapore.

9, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Amoy.

9, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.

9, Amara, British str., for Kobe.

9, Decima, German str., for Saigen.

9, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.

9, Hunan, British str., for Canton.

9, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.

9, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.

9, Apenrade, German str., for Saigon.

9, Centaur, British str., for Saigon.

AMOY.

June—

ARRIVALS.

- 23, C. H. Kian, British str., from H'kong.
- 23, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Sishan, British str., from Swatow.
- 24, Marie Jebben, German str., from H'kong.
- 24, Sungkiang, British str., from H'kong.
- 26, Haitan, British str., from Hongkong.
- 26, Chihli, British str., from Swatow.
- 28, Hailoong, British str., from Hongkong.
- 28, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 28, Esang, British str., from Swatow.
- 28, Victoria, Swedish str., from Hongkong.
- 29, Zafiro, British str., from Hongkong.
- 29, Thales, British str., from Hongkong.
- 30, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
- 30, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Chefoo.
- 31, Peacock, British g-bt., from Hongkong.
- 31, Newchwang, British str., from N'chwang.
- 31, Namoa, British str., from Hongkong.
- 31, Irene, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 31, Chefoo, British str., from Newchwang.

June—

- 1, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
- 2, Telamon, British str., from Shanghai.
- 2, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 3, Rewa, British bark, from Chefoo.
- 3, Apenrade, German str., from Saigon.
- 3, Anchises, British str., from Hongkong.
- 4, Clara Babuyan, Brit. bk., from T'wanfoo.
- 5, Formosa, British str., from Hongkong.
- 5, Cheangchow, British str., from H'kong.
- 5, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.

June—

DEPARTURES.

- 23, Chihli, British str., for Swatow.
- 23, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
- 24, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
- 25, Marie Jebben, German str., for Shanghai.
- 25, Ulysses, British str., for Hongkong.
- 25, Clara, German str., for Hongkong.
- 26, Haitan, British str., for Foochow.
- 28, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 28, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
- 28, Valkyrien, British bark, for Foochow.
- 29, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 29, Thales, British str., for Taiwanfoo.
- 29, Yungching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 30, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 30, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 30, Chintung, Chinese str., for Swatow.
- 30, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
- 31, Szechuen, British str., for Swatow.

June—

- 1, Namoa, British str., for Foochow.
- 2, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
- 2, Hailoong, British str., for Hongkong.
- 2, Telamon, British str., for Hongkong.
- 2, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 2, Victoria, Swedish str., for Straits.
- 3, Peacock, British g-bt., for Foochow.
- 4, Newchwang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 4, Irene, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Airlie, str., from Kobe.—Mr. and Mrs. Rosenfeld, Miss Porter, and Mr. Sowden.

Per Vindobona, str., from Kobe for Port Said.—Mr. and Mrs. Steinberg. For Trieste.—Mr. Anz.

Per Glamorganshire, str., from London, &c., for Japan.—Mr. and Miss Bethal, Mr. Harris.

Per Thales, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—His Excellency Li, Mr. and Mrs. D. Chwong.

Per Fushun, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. W. Hay and R. D. Watts.

Per Canton, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. McClure.

Per Haimun, str., from Amoy.—Rev. Bishop Durden.

Per Memnon, str., from Sandakan.—Mr. and Mrs. Cook and family, and Mother Teresa.

Per Doric, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mrs. Bell-Irving, Mr. Chas. E. Graham, Mrs. Graham, Miss M. Graham, Mrs. M. Wheeler, Lieut. G. Salmon, R.A., Capt. Brouchers, and Mr. P. Courtney.

Per Choysang, str., from Chinkiang.—Mrs. Sawyer.

Per Esmeralda, str., from Manila.—Messrs. Jose Any Capin, Jose M. Estanger, E. Langlasse, Minant (French Vice-Consul), Mrs. Piletier, Messrs. B. Barretto, Ho Tung, and H. J. Morris.

Per Chelydra, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mr., Mrs., and Miss Whilma, Mr. G. Wylie.

DEPARTED.

Per Mirzapore, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Mr. A. H. Mitchelson, Miss Yei, and Mrs. Matsu and child. For Colombo.—Messrs. W. J. Edwards, R. Prentice, W. H. Cohen, G. S. Knox, and Mrs. W. Cox. For Bombay.—Mr. H. Abdalali. For Marseilles.—Rev. Dr. C. Wenyon. For London.—Lieut. Thos. W. P. Dyer, R.M.A., and Mr. W. H. Wickham. From Shanghai for London.—Messrs. J. G. Mutter and J. Roberts.

Per Hohenzollern, str., for Yokohama from Southampton.—Misses Rosa MacDonald, J. Harrison, and E. R. Gilbert, Dr. W. N. Whitney, Mr. H. Stanley Smith. From Antwerp.—Mr. W. Faust. From Hongkong.—Messrs. E. Georg and A. v. Pustau. For Hyogo from Hongkong.—Mr. G. H. Eaton.

Per Vindobona, str., for Singapore.—Mr. Ugo Nervegna.

Per Ancona, str., from Hongkong for Kobe.—Messrs. W. Ewald, F. J. H. Keonigs, and W. G. Barnet. For Yokohama from London.—Mr. S. W. Diehl, and Rev. D. H. Briggs. From Marseilles.—Mr. R. A. Hurt. From Port Said.—Mr. J. Hamel.

Per Braemar, str., for Victoria, B.C.—Mr. B. Spain.

Per Hailoong, str., for Taiwanfoo.—Mr. Tackey.

Per Airlie, str., for Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Rosenfeld, Miss Porter, and Mr. Sowden.

Per Prinz Heinrich, str., for Shanghai from Bremen.—Mrs. A. Ostwald and Mr. C. Treppenhauer. From Southampton.—Messrs. Slack, A. F. Tyler, J. F. Pearson and family, and Miss Reynolds. From Genoa.—Messrs. Joh. Ruth and A. Gelsimas, Mrs. M. Moller, Miss A. Kamel, Mr. G. v. Gadewoltz, Dr. and Mrs. v. Prillwitz. From Singapore.—Mr. Nuger. From Hongkong.—Messrs. H. Altmann, J. F. Bailey, C. Feigion, J. Edwards, G. Schulze, Mr. and Mrs. C. Cohn, Dr. Schulbert.

Per Hongkong, str., for Haiphong.—Mr. and Mrs. Mario, Mr. Portal Mario.

Per City of Peking, str., for Kobe.—Mrs. H. Okiku. For San Francisco.—Messrs. A. G. Smith and Geo. Ahrens.